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OUR MOST
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ISSUE EVER!

Halloween

tricks & treats®

178

Frightfully
Fun Ideas

43

Clever
Pumpkins

Spooktacular
Parties
for all ages

Tasty Ghoulish Treats

2009

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To make your own Sugar Pumpkin, visit figtreeandco.com

Check out more of Joanna's fabrics designs at modafabrics.com

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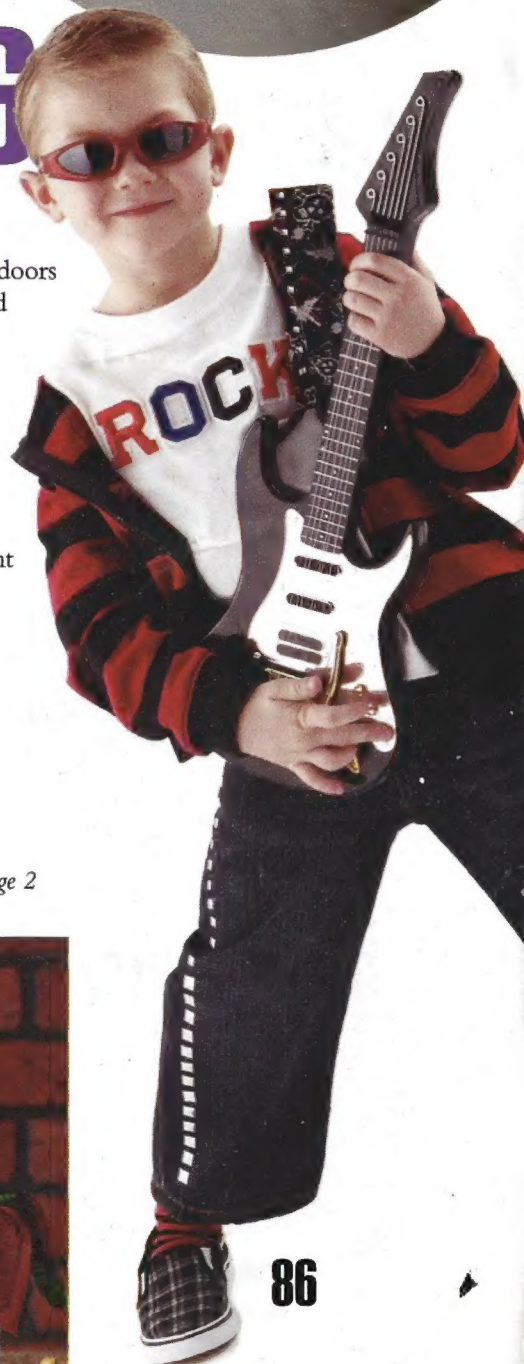
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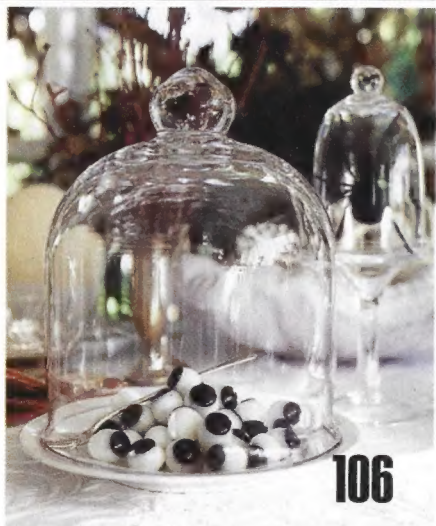
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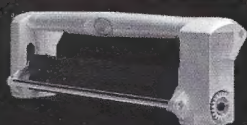
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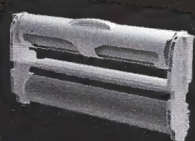


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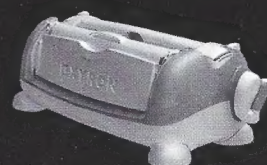
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Halloween

tricks & treats

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1716 Locust Street, LN-114, Des Moines, IA 50309-3023.



Look at us! We're So cute!

Our littlest family member, Gordie the Yorkie, recently posed for the *100 Days of Holidays Dog Breed Pumpkin Stencil* contest. So be sure to check it out at bhg.com/dogvote and vote for him! (Bragging rights for our family dogs are up for grabs in our office.)

But don't worry—we haven't completely gone to the dogs around here. This issue is full of gothic galas of crows, frightful felines, blinged up blackbirds, and many more creatures. There also are a few unusual ones this year, such as a mouse driving a pumpkin race car, a spider infestation on a plate of hedge balls, and lastly, Alley, the cat treat.

Other treats and tricks you'll find are the Scary Spider Cake, some Spooky Stew, and one of our favorites, the Stinky Feet candy bars! If you feel like you need a bit of the royal treatment, the King and the Queen of Pumpkins should fill your bill.

So check out this issue, send out those party invites, don your costume, because it's ...

Happy Halloween time!

Ann Beuins

EDITOR

ghostly gathering

Make these cute pumpkin characters that resemble their snowman cousins.



Dynamic Duo

Complete with mask and cape, these pumpkin crusaders are sure to be the heroes of Halloween night.

Start with three white pumpkins in graduated sizes, and use an awl and hammer to make a hole in the bottom of the smallest pumpkin, in the top of the largest one, and all the way through the middle pumpkin. Stack them; insert a wooden dowel the same height as the pumpkins to hold them together. Then dress the pumpkin characters in Halloween costumes.



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bone-chilling pillows

No bones about it! This grinning skull and crossbones are sure to *boost* the spook factor of a sofa or chair.



MATERIALS

White fleece (enough for two skull and four bone pieces)
Felt: black, yellow, and orange (small pieces)
Disappearing-ink fabric-marking pen
White chalk
Matching sewing threads
Polyester fiberfill

INSTRUCTIONS

Skull: Using a fabric-marking pen and the patterns on *page 11*, trace two skulls onto white fleece, two outer eye pieces onto yellow felt, and two center eye pieces onto orange felt. Using white chalk, trace skull eyebrows, pupils, nose, and smile onto black felt. Cut out pieces.

Referring to the photo for placement, pin all of the facial features onto one of the white fleece skulls. Using matching threads, sew pieces in place approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch inside the edges of each shape.

With right sides together, sew the skull shapes together using a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance and leaving a 4-inch opening along one side. Stuff the opening with fiberfill. Hand-sew the opening closed using matching thread.

Bones: Using the patterns on *page 11*, trace the bone pattern four times onto white fleece; cut out the pieces. With right sides together, sew the bones together in pairs using a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance and leaving a 3-inch opening along the side of each pillow. Stuff each opening with fiberfill. Hand-sew the openings closed using matching thread.

DESIGNED BY ELLEN CRIMI-TRENT
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE

ghoulish pumpkins



CLEVER LEVER CRAFT PUNCH

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paper crafts with Clever Lever Craft Punch®.
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'here, kitty kitty'

This easy-to-make decorating accent is the cat's meow!



MATERIALS

Scraps of felted wool
Freezer paper
Pearl cotton or wool thread: black and orange
Fiberfill
Pencil

INSTRUCTIONS

To felt wool, machine-wash it in a hot-water wash, cool-rinse cycle with a small amount of detergent; machine-dry and steam-press.

Lay the freezer paper, shiny side down, over the patterns found *opposite*. With a pencil, trace each pattern. Cut out the freezer-paper shapes. Using a hot, dry iron, press the freezer-paper shapes, shiny side down, onto your designated fabrics; let cool. Cut out the fabric shapes. Peel off the freezer paper.

Position the eyes and noses on the cat faces; baste in place. Use black pearl cotton to blanket-stitch each eye in place. Use the black pearl cotton to make a French knot in the center of each eye. Use the orange pearl cotton to blanket-stitch the noses in place and to straight-stitch the whisker and ear markings.

For each accent, layer the appliquéd cat face and a plain head shape wrong sides together; baste, leaving an opening at the bottom. Using orange pearl cotton, blanket-stitch around the cat face. Stuff with a little fiberfill and then place the cat head on a pencil.

DESIGNED BY ANNIE LIPPINCOTT
PHOTOGRAPHED BY PERRY STRUSE

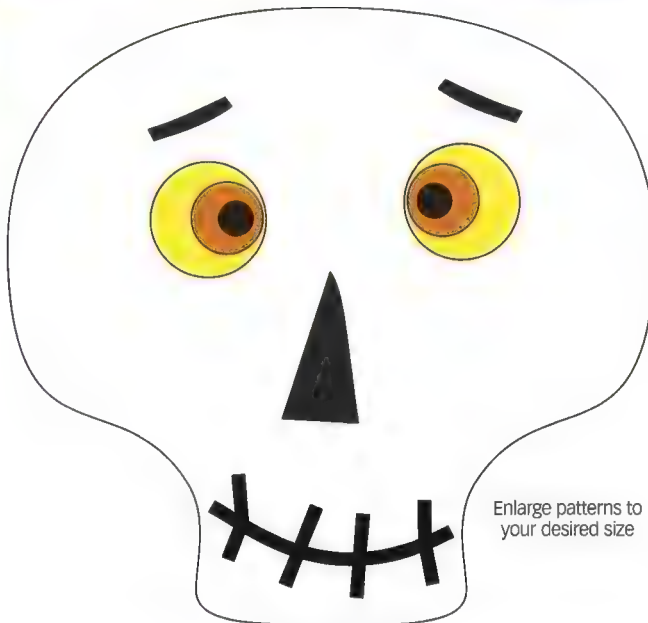
frightfully **FUN** patterns



'Here Kitty, Kitty'
Appliqué Placement Diagram



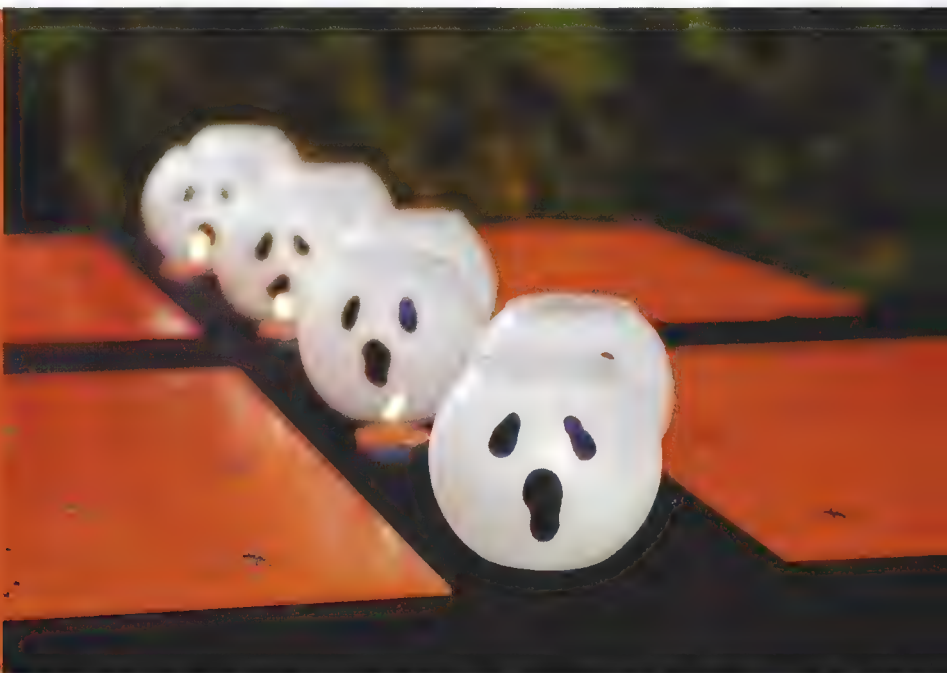
Bone-Chilling Pillows
page 8



Enlarge patterns to
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Find step-by-step instructions for
this project and other inspiring
ideas at krylon.com/ghost19.

halloween haunting

Open the top of this funky haunted house. Surprise!—there's a spot for treats inside.

MATERIALS

Papier-mâché two-story house with removable roof
Patterned papers: large black-and-white polka dot, small black-and-white polka dot, mottled lime green, mottled yellow, mottled orange

Card stock: gray

Black marker

Repositionable double-sided tape

Crimping tool

Number stickers

Scalloped-edge scissors

Square scalloped-edge punch

Black brad for doorknob

Black rubber-stamp ink

Black acrylic paint

Crafts sticks for fence

Hot glue

INSTRUCTIONS

Paint the outside and inside of the house black.

House sides: Lay each half of the house facedown on large black-and-white polka dot paper. Trace around each side and dormer, marking openings for windows and the door; cut out the pieces. Ink the edges of each piece with black ink and use crafts glue to adhere the pieces to the house.

Cut strips from small black-and-white polka dot paper for shutters. Crimp the strips, and glue them to the sides of the windows as shown in the photograph.

Measure the size of the windows and cut squares from yellow paper 1 inch larger all around. Glue a yellow square to the back of each window. Repeat for the door using orange paper. Add a black brad to the door for a doorknob.

Adhere number stickers to the green paper; cut out using scalloped-edge scissors. Ink the edges with black ink. Adhere them above the door with tape.

Roof: Punch squares from lime-green card stock. Ink the edges of each square with black ink. Glue the squares onto the roof, overlapping pieces and trimming squares to fit tight areas if needed.

Base: Cut crafts sticks at varying lengths. Trace the sticks onto the gray card stock; cut out. Glue papers to the sticks. Ink the stick edges and fronts with black ink. Hot-glue the sticks to the base edge for the fence.

To make the sign, pen the word "vacancy" on green card stock and cut into a rectangle. Punch two holes along the top edge. Cut a 6-inch length of black wire and coil it around a pencil. Fasten the ends to the sign and hang over the fence.

Finishing: Use a black marker to color any unfinished areas of the box, such as window and doorway edges. Outline each dormer and the chimney. Spray the house with varnish.

DESIGNED BY TAMI SANDERS PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE



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Card by Tami Sanders. Design Adhesives Eeeekks! ©D. Waters

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Spellbinding Book

One look at these enchanting projects and you'll fall under their nostalgic spell. Artist Bethany Lowe brings her distinctive style to her book *Bethany Lowe's Folk Art Halloween*. Inside, you'll find decorations, luminaries, invitations, masks, party favors, and more. Instructions, patterns, and full-color clip art are included. For more information, visit larkbooks.com.

ghoulish goods

Cast a spell on
your home with these
spooky products.



Moonlight Mayhem

Boost the fear factor on a sofa or chair. These spellbinding felt pillows add an instant dose of Halloween drama while providing a comfy place to rest in peace. For more information, contact Bethany Lowe Designs at 800/944-6213; bethanylowe.com.



Fright Flight

Tired of boring Halloween jewelry? Nevermore! You'll have a hard time resisting the stoic stare of this ebony raven, which is available as a necklace or a ring. The necklace is 16 inches long, strung with carved resin beads and faceted gemstones, and includes a 2-inch extension chain. To find a retailer, contact Hot Cakes Designs at 415/563-2741; hotcakesdesign.com.



Messages from the Past

Step aside, candy—it's time for a more grown-up Halloween treat. These old-fashioned postcard-style greetings are made by applying edible wafer papers to frosted cookies. They come in a set that includes 20 different paper designs. To order, contact Fancy Flours at 406/587-0118; fancyflours.com.

Greet & Treat

Here's one black cat that won't give your guests bad luck. Fill this wide-mouth ceramic candy dish with fright-night delights, and watch them quickly disappear by the handful. Or serve up tantalizing treats on the pumpkin snack plate for a more traditional Halloween presentation. To find a retailer, contact Midwest at 800/776-2075; seasonsofcannonfalls.com.



Cast of Characters

It may be the bewitching hour, but this charming little scene recalls a simpler time of haunts and hoots. The vintage-inspired trick-or-treater figurines are available in a set of four, and the haunted house is available separately. To find a retailer, contact Midwest at 800/776-2075; seasonsofcannonfalls.com.



En"grave" the Date

Your guests will be "dying" to come to your Halloween bash when they spot this eerie invite in their mailbox. This printable invitation is available in a box of 10 and includes 10 three-dimensional skeleton embellishments and 10 envelopes. To find a retailer, call 888/817-8170 or visit annagriffin.com.



Rattle Them Bones

The leg bone may be connected to the hip bone, but you can arrange this glow-in-the-dark fellow's parts any which way you choose. He sticks to any smooth surface, inside or out, and can be reused year after year. To order, contact RoomMates at 800/236-4520; roommatespeelandstick.com.

know vintage like a pro

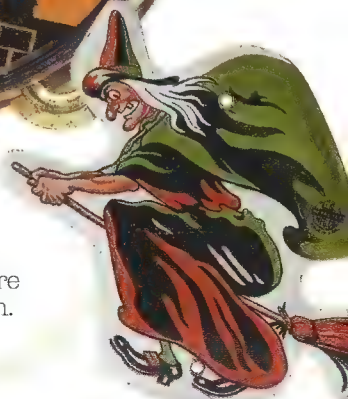
WRITTEN BY KRISTIN SCHMITT

Halloween collectibles guru Mark Ledenbach shares his insight into the props for spooky holidays that came before us.



Noisemakers

Tamborine, above, circa 1920s. Witch ratchet, right, circa 1960s. Both noisemakers were made from tin.



Want to be on the cutting edge of vintage Halloween collectibles? Whether price is no object or you're on a limited budget, you'll revel in the reward when you get your hands on one of these favorite trinkets of pre-1960s Halloween imagery. Take stock in these tips from Mark Ledenbach, expert and author on all things vintage (pre-1960s).

➤ Beistle party sets.

Back in the 1920s, the Beistle Corporation manufactured paper room decorations, including place settings, nut cups, wall die cuts, and lampshades. The items were treated as disposable, serving

their party-decor purpose and then typically discarded. Thus, getting your hands on a mint-condition, complete punch-out booklet of these decorations will cost \$350–\$400 today, Mark says. And the discovery of a rarer prepunched boxed set will set you back \$400–\$500.

➤ **German candy containers.** In the early decades of the 20th century, German manufacturers found success in the export of handmade Halloween candy containers. Made of composition—a pulp-base mixture that hardened like today's plaster of Paris—the

Continued on page 18



Skeleton Candle

Circa 1960s. The Gurley Novelty Company also manufactured this candle in a black-and-white version.




Candy Container

Circa 1920s. This hand-painted composition candy container was made in Germany.



Beistle Complete Party Outfit Set

Circa 1918. Boxed party sets such as this one contained paper supplies for a party of eight.



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Continued from page 16

figures were cast in molds and hand-painted by artisans who turned out 10–20 pieces a day. After a few hundred pours, molds would wear out, prompting the creation of new designs. As a result, these fragile, limited-supply containers bring anywhere from \$100 to \$2,500 in perfect condition.

➤ **Candles.** Wax creators such as the Gurley Novelty Company manufactured fantastic candle representations of the holiday's popular icons—witches, jack-o'-lanterns, black cats, ghosts, and more. They're a little scarce because most were burned down, but their pleasing designs also made the candles popular just to display and keep. Don't pay more than \$25 for one, Mark advises, you can often pick one up for just \$10–\$12. A perfect candle, though, can be tough to find due to poor storage that often has bent and misshaped the wax figurine.

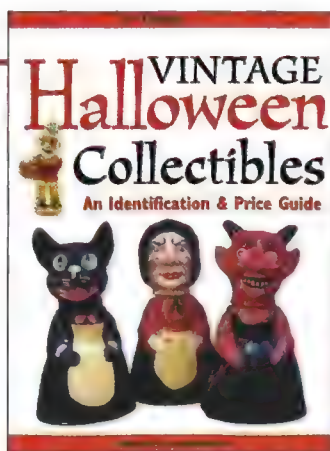
➤ **Paper party goods.** Before the 1930s, Halloween was an adult celebration—hosted by adults, for adults. In an era of formal sophistication, a holiday gathering was announced by invitations sent by post, place cards were used to properly seat guests, and elegant die cuts dressed up the party room walls. Party activities most often included playing cards, requiring tally cards and winning prize candy containers. Manufacturers—including Beistle, Gibson, Dennison, and Whitney—mass-produced these paper party goods, packaging them in boxes of 50–100 items from which retailers stocked their inventory. Picking up \$10 pieces of these paper goods can generate an inexpensive, playful display among your Halloween collectibles (the older the piece,

the more you can expect to pay). Mark likes to search deeper for a complete wholesale box of the supplies, which can run \$100 or more.

➤ **Tin noisemakers.** The 1950s saw a surge of popularity in holiday noisemakers made of tin and decorated with delightful lithographed designs. While many rare specialty items (such as tambourines) snatch a high price in the collectibles market, a plethora of horns, shakers, clackers, or other common toys is fairly easy to grab for \$20–\$30. Get your hands on them now—Mark predicts they are an underrecognized treasure that will soon gain in popularity and price.

Following Mark's advice and then injecting your own ingenuity to the process should give you a collection that will make your celebration of Halloween extraspecial for years to come.

**Hot Air
Balloon Die Cut**
Circa early 1930s.
Die cuts, both flat
and slightly embossed,
were popular wall
decorations at
Halloween parties.



Mark shares his insights and answers questions through his Web site, halloweencollector.com, including weekly updated opinions on items up for sale on eBay. More information also can be found in Mark's book, *Vintage Halloween Collectibles*, published by Krause Publications.

More
At BHG.com/halloweentricks

Trick-or-Treaters

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MILK CHOCOLATE
PEANUT BUTTER CUPS
SNACK SIZE CUPS

HERSHEY'S
Milk Chocolate
SNACK SIZE BARS

KitKat
Crisp Wafers
SNACK SIZE

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He's a Crack-Up

Perch this clumsy character of nursery rhyme fame on a retaining wall or your front step and he's sure to elicit giggles from passersby. And don't worry—this Humpty Dumpty is easy to put together, thanks to a painted face, folded paper legs, and an old funnel for a cap.

Party Time

Turn a gang of grinning pumpkins into a fun-loving group fit for any Halloween blowout, *opposite*. Black-and-white scrapbooking papers, done up as festive party hats, conceal stems and set the tone for a merry, not scary, party theme.





pumpkins on parade

Make your carved creations stand out from the crowd. Pull out all the stops and celebrate Halloween with clever pumpkins that are heads (and sometimes other parts, too) above the others. You'll find carving tips, patterns, and instructions beginning on page 30.

DESIGNED BY LORI HELLANDER CRAFTED BY ROBERT ROYSE WRITTEN BY HEIDI PALKOVIC
PHOTOGRAPHED BY GREG SCHEIDMANN

Who's Next?

This ghostly pumpkin pair is bound to make heads roll. To get the look—Headless **Hercules** style—just add paint, lace, ribbon, and letter stickers to conjure up a mysterious madame and an ominous message to warn all of what's to come.





You're Doomed

Watch out... that soul-searching creature lurking in the bushes may be looking for you! With a tower of pumpkins threaded onto a PVC pipe for his body, this grim guy gets his foreboding persona from a dousing of faux stone spray paint. Complete with a hooded black cloak and a plastic scythe from the costume shop, this spooky guy is ready to usher in pure Halloween fun.



No Tricks, Just Treats

Let's not sugarcoat it—every trick-or-treater is in it for the candy. Show them the way with this satisfying trio of pumpkins dressed up as wrapped candies, above. All you need is a steady hand to chisel a message in the surfaces of the pumpkins and decorated bows to mount your plastic-wrapped creations. But be warned, with signage like this, you'll need plenty of treats on hand!

They're Having a Ball

These zany pumpkins, opposite, have an eye for the offbeat. To give them their off-kilter looks, tap into a collection of eyeball superballs and embellish them with marker-drawn details. Pair mismatched balls for a truck-eyed presentation, and use paint for their grumpy grins.





The Pumpkin Escape

So much for flying and scampering—this raven and mouse have found faster ways to travel, *above*. Decorated with painted flames and outfitted with mini gourds for wheels, these pumpkin and gourd getaway cars are perfect for setting up your own predator-and-prey scenario.

How Tiny They Are

Who knew that these little web crawlers, *left*, are actually pie pumpkins in disguise? Black glitter paint, chenille stems, and wiggly eyes spin these pumpkins into a spiderlike existence.

The Royal Couple

This royal couple, *opposite*, is more Alice in Wonderland than Charles and Diana, so the free-form facial features are left a little to the imagination. With carved pumpkin crowns atop their expressionist heads, they're bound to be the rulers of your castle.

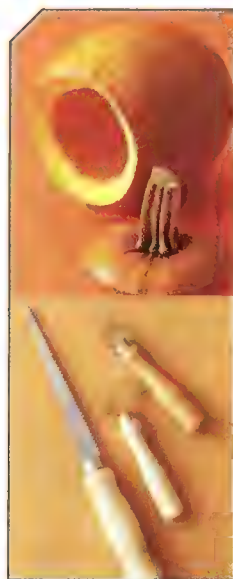


When Halloween approaches, replace summer's fading flowers with pumpkin personalities tucked into empty urns and other garden containers.



creative carving basics

Follow our tips and techniques to make your next jack-o'-lanterns the stars of your neighborhood.



Prepare the Pumpkin

Draw the lid outline on top of a room-temperature pumpkin, or draw a circle on the pumpkin bottom. Cut along the lines using a keyhole saw. The long blade is best for cutting through the thick pumpkin rind. Clean out the seeds and pulp using a large spoon. Scrape the inside of the pumpkin with clay-modeling tools until the walls are about 1 inch thick.



Transfer the Design

Enlarge or decrease the pattern to fit your pumpkin. Tape or pin the pattern to the pumpkin; then transfer the pattern using a tracing wheel (found at fabrics stores) or poke the holes using an awl or ceramics tool. If using a poker-type tool, push the point into the pumpkin skin but not through the pumpkin wall; space the holes about 1/8 inch apart.



Cut Out the Shapes

Cradle the pumpkin in your lap and use a crafts knife to cut out the designs. For smaller openings, use a fine-tooth saw. Grasp the saw as you would hold a pencil and cut with a continuous up-and-down motion, keeping the saw perpendicular to the pumpkin. Apply gentle pressure and work from the center out on large designs. Avoid twisting the blade as you work.

Scoop Out Circular Shapes

To create glowing round shapes, use a melon baller to scoop out circular areas of the pumpkin skin. Push one edge of the melon baller into the pumpkin to break the skin, and gently push the baller to scoop out the area. Repeat this process all over the pumpkin. Place a light inside the pumpkin to make the scooped-out areas glow.



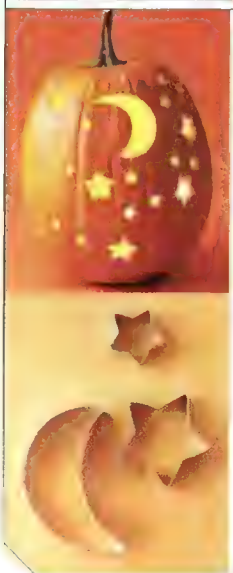
Gouge Design Lines

Wood-carving gouges are great for removing strips of skin from a pumpkin. The gouged areas will glow when light shines through them. Experiment with different gouge sizes because each will produce a different width of gouged line. Follow the lines of the pattern to carefully remove the skin and some of the pulp until the pumpkin wall is the desired thickness.



Cut Perfect Holes

If you want large holes in your pumpkin, it isn't always practical to use a fine-tooth saw to cut out the shape. To get a perfect circle every time, an apple corer is easy and efficient to use. Push the sharp round end of the corer through the pumpkin wall. A pottery tool can also be used to pierce the pumpkin with smaller holes.



Cut Shapes with Cookie Cutters

Metal cookie cutters are good for cutting out fancy shapes without having to use a saw. Place the sharp edge of a cutter against the pumpkin, and then use a hammer or rubber mallet to tap the cutter into the pumpkin skin. Continue tapping the cutter until it breaks through the pumpkin wall.



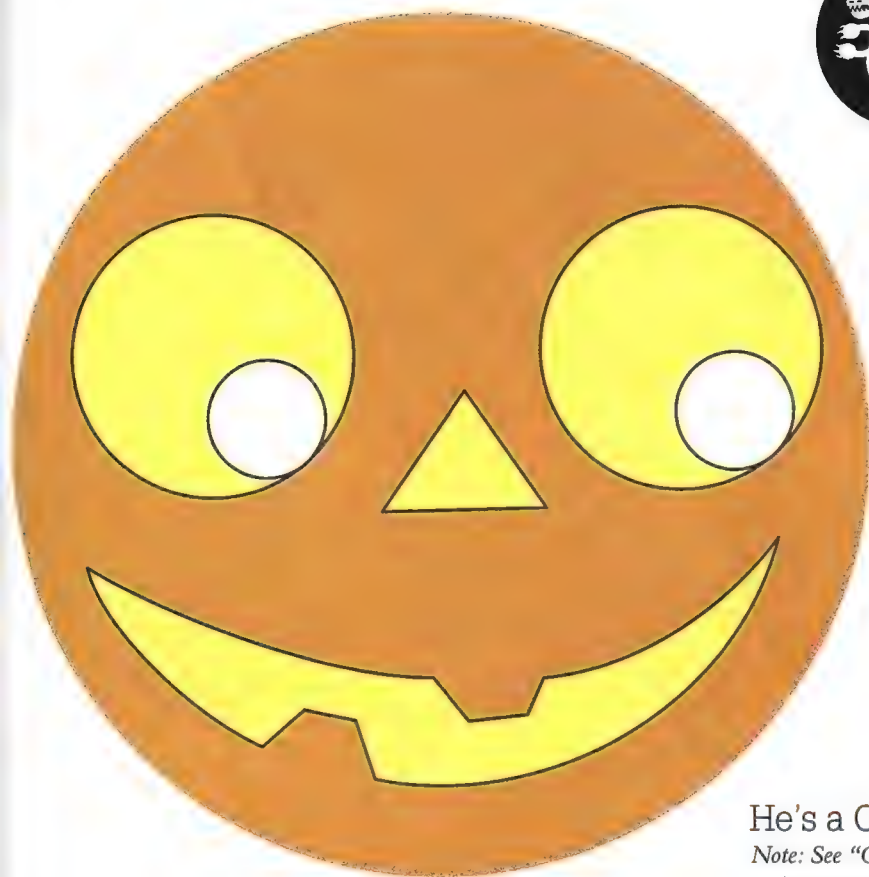
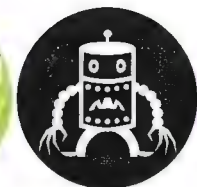
Gouge Out Large Areas

In addition to gouging fine lines, wood-carving gouges can be utilized for removing large areas of pumpkin skin. Choose the widest rounded gouge for the largest areas to be gouged, and use more narrow gouges for more intricate designs. The deeper the gouge in the pumpkin wall, the more light that will shine through.



Drill Holes

For the fastest and easiest way to make holes in a pumpkin, use a power drill. Experiment with drill bit sizes and patterns to create different effects. Interesting patterns can be created by following the ribs on the outside of the pumpkin as shown or by creating all-over patterns. The holes also are perfect for accommodating a string of lights inserted from the inside.



Pattern for foot
Cut 2.
Enlarge to
desired size.

He's a Crack-Up

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, opposite.

Transfer the pattern onto a pie pumpkin. Paint the eyes white. Paint the mouth, nose, and eyeballs black. Spray with varnish to set the paint.

Using the pattern, cut two feet from red paper, and glue one foot to the bottom of each paper chain. Glue the other chain ends to the bottom of the painted pumpkin.

Place an old funnel on top of the pumpkin for a hat.

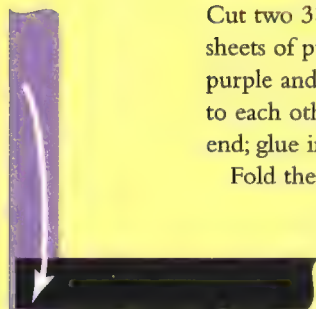
Pumpkin Legs

Cut two 3×60-inch strips each from large sheets of purple and black paper. Lay one purple and one black strip perpendicular to each other, overlapping the pieces at one end; glue in place.

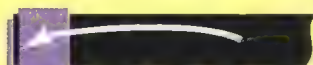
Fold the vertical strip over the horizontal

strip. Then fold the horizontal strip over the vertical strip. Repeat alternately folding the vertical and horizontal strips over each other until you have a long chain. Pull the ends to open the chain.

Repeat to make a second chain.



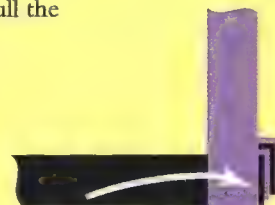
step 1



step 2



step 3



step 4



Party Time

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 28.

Transfer the patterns onto the pumpkins. Using a knife or carving tools, cut out the openings.

Shape black-and-white patterned scrapbooking paper into cones, creating a mix of both tall skinny cones and short wide cones. Tape the overlaps to secure the cones. Cut an assortment of circles from patterned papers, and glue the pieces to the cone sides. Decorate the cone edges with purchased paper fringe.

Hot-glue the decorated hats to the tops of the pumpkins.

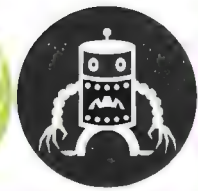


Who's Next?

Trace around your cutout image with a pencil onto your pumpkin. Paint the silhouette black. Spray with varnish to set the paint.

Cut a length of black lace to fit around the silhouette. Pin the lace in place with pearl-head straight pins.

For the "Off with Your Head" pumpkin, use letter stickers to spell out the message on a white pumpkin. Use pearl-head straight pins to attach narrow black ribbon to the pumpkin, following the rib lines as a guide.



Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 28.

Choose four pumpkins to make a tower, and cut a hole in the top and bottom of three of them. Cut a PVC pipe long enough to fit through the pumpkins and pound it into the ground. Slide the pumpkins onto the dowel.

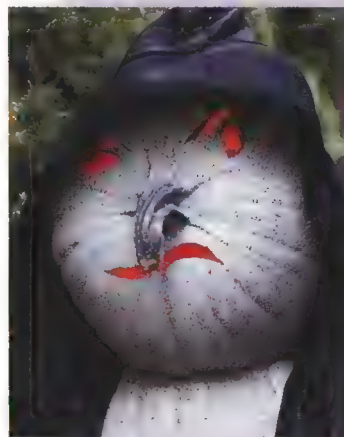
Transfer the pattern onto the fourth pumpkin, noting the placement of the stem for a nose. Using a knife or carving tools, cut out the openings. Cut a hole in the side of the pumpkin underneath the mouth and a hole on the back side for inserting your candle or light.

Slide the pumpkin onto the dowel through the holes. Place cotton balls in the facial openings, and then spray all the pumpkins with faux-stone paint. Let the paint dry, and remove the cotton.

Referring to the photograph on page 23 for arm placement, cut two small openings in the sides of

the second pumpkin from the top. Insert twigs for arms.

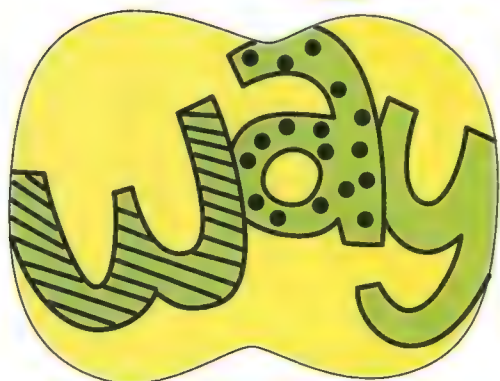
Drape a purchased black cloak over the pumpkin tower, and wire a plastic scythe (purchased at a costume shop) to one of the twig arms.



Cover Pumpkin Face

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 28.

Transfer the patterns onto the pumpkins. Using a knife or carving tools, cut out the openings.



No Tricks, Just Treats

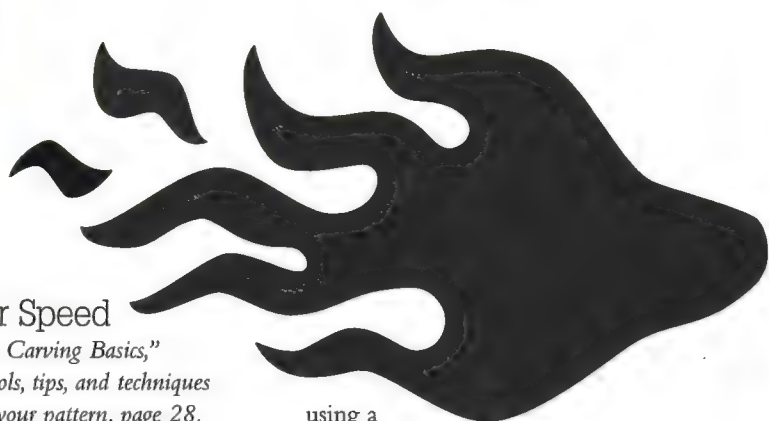
Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 28.

Transfer the patterns onto the pumpkins. With a gouge, cut around the letters, going just deep enough to reveal the pumpkins' inner rinds. Outline the letters with black permanent marker and decorate the letters with stripes and polka dots as you like.

Remove the stems from the pumpkins. Wrap a sheet of cellophane around each pumpkin, tying the excess at the sides with ribbon. Cut a small slit in the cellophane above the stem base. Hot-glue the stem back onto the top of the pumpkin through the slit.

Cut three 1- to 2-inch diameter dowels to the desired length for the mounting posts. Using a crafts knife, whittle one end of each dowel to a point. Cover the poles with black scrapbooking papers and embellish with Halloween-theme ribbon.

Pound the dowels into the ground with the pointed end up. Push the pumpkins onto the pointed dowels.



The Need for Speed

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 28.

Transfer the patterns onto the pumpkin and the gourd. Using a knife or carving tools, cut out the openings. Paint the flames on the pumpkin black.

With a gouge, cut out openings for wheels on the sides of the pumpkin. Use a knife to slice the tops off four gourds. Attach the gourd tops to the wheel openings using wood skewers. Cut another gourd slice and

using a skewer, attach it to the driver's seat opening as a steering wheel.

Use a knife to slice the tops off two very small gourds. Use skewers to attach the gourd caps to the rear and to attach two small whole gourds to the front of the gourd car.

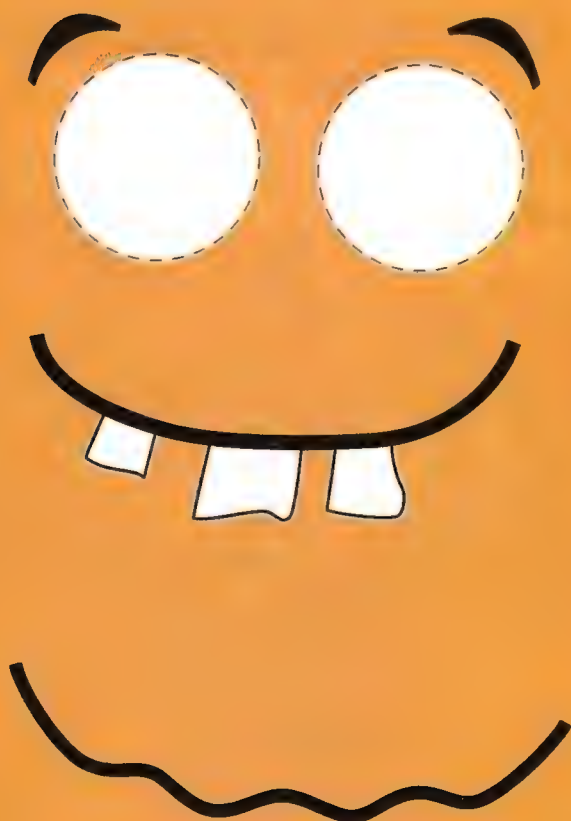
Pose a purchased artificial raven and mouse in the drivers' seats of the cars.

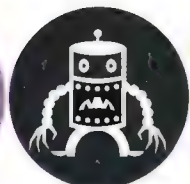


They're Having a Ball

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 28.

Transfer the patterns onto the pumpkins. With a gouge, cut circles for the eyes. Insert purchased eyeball superballs (found at party supply stores), marbles, or other patterned or colored balls into the gouged openings. If you like, add zany pupils with colored markers.





Patterns for jewels

The Royal Court

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 28.

Transfer the patterns onto the pumpkins. Using a knife or carving tools, cut out the openings. With a gouge, cut the facial lines, going just

deep enough to reveal the pumpkins' inner rinds.

Cut the crowns from the top and bottom of a third pumpkin. With a gouge, cut the areas for the jewels. Attach gems to the gouged areas on both crowns with crafts glue. Thread

pearls onto pearl-head pins and attach them to the scalloped edge of one of the crowns.

Use skewers to attach the crowns to the tops of the pumpkins. Add strips of faux fur and lace as collars around the bases of the pumpkins.

Web Crawlers

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 28.

Cover the stems of pie pumpkins with painter's tape. Paint the pumpkins with black spray paint; let dry.

Brush crafts glue, then liberal amounts of black glitter onto the pumpkins; let dry.

Attach black bumpy chenille stems for legs by poking the ends into the pumpkins. Glue wiggly eyes to the pumpkins.



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Party on the dark side with stark and staring
thrills and surprises. From bugs and botanicals
to haunting spirits and hovering ravens,
it's truly a feast for the eyes.

GOTHIC GALA

PROJECTS DESIGNED BY LORI HELLANDER PHOTOGRAPHED BY GREG SCHEIDEMANN
WRITTEN BY DEBRA WITTRUP AND LAURA HOLTORF COLLINS



Moonlit Boo-ffet

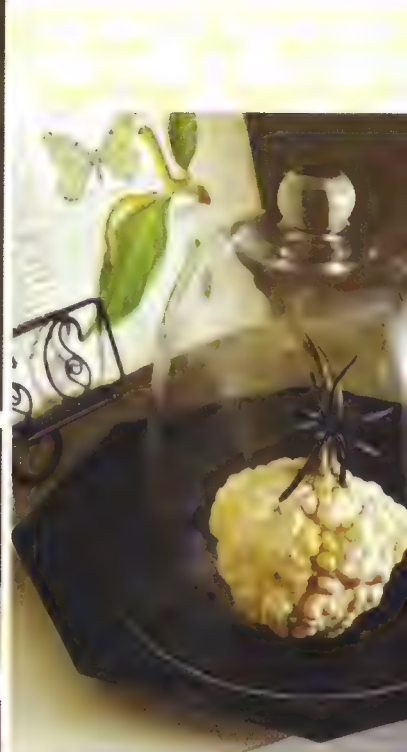
Set a table with classic black-and-white toile and houndstooth patterns that add Victorian elegance while inviting gothic chills



Sinouette Chic

Design a cabinet of curiosities worthy of Dr. Frankenstein. Matte-black spray paint readers an old ceramic pitcher, while black damask and scrollwork stickers transform pillar candles and a glass vase. Fenton Maids spray painted white lend special touches of terror.





From the silence of the grave rises a party of unexpected chills guaranteed to make skins crawl.

If your guests don't demonstrate any phobias as they arrive, you can be sure they will as they leave! This little gathering is prepped to unsettle all who enter—long after the bewitching hour has passed.

Why spend a fortune on Halloween decor for your get-together when you can create a creepy atmosphere with just a good imagination, a few household items, and cans of spray paint? Use black-and-white papers, fabrics, paint, and stickers to elevate ordinary objects to baleful beauty. Create a temporary graveyard view, introduce some natural oddities, and let faux ravens and spiders run rampant. Serve simple appetizers amid cauldrons raised to new heights with candlestick pedestals and drinks that suggest deadly ingredients. Then watch your guests approach with trepidation.



Arachnid Attack!

Poison-green hedge balls, *above left*, attract a hair-raising spider infestation and the attention of a stately raven. Painted white skulls under glass grimace in the background.

Ebony for Eternity

Shroud plastic and glass vases, *left*, in layers of matte-black spray paint, and they'll stand like dark sentinels on the shelf.

Dissease Under Glass

Like a biological specimen in a laboratory, this intriguing gourd, *above top*, invites closer inspection. Don't lift the glass, though, or you might regret it.

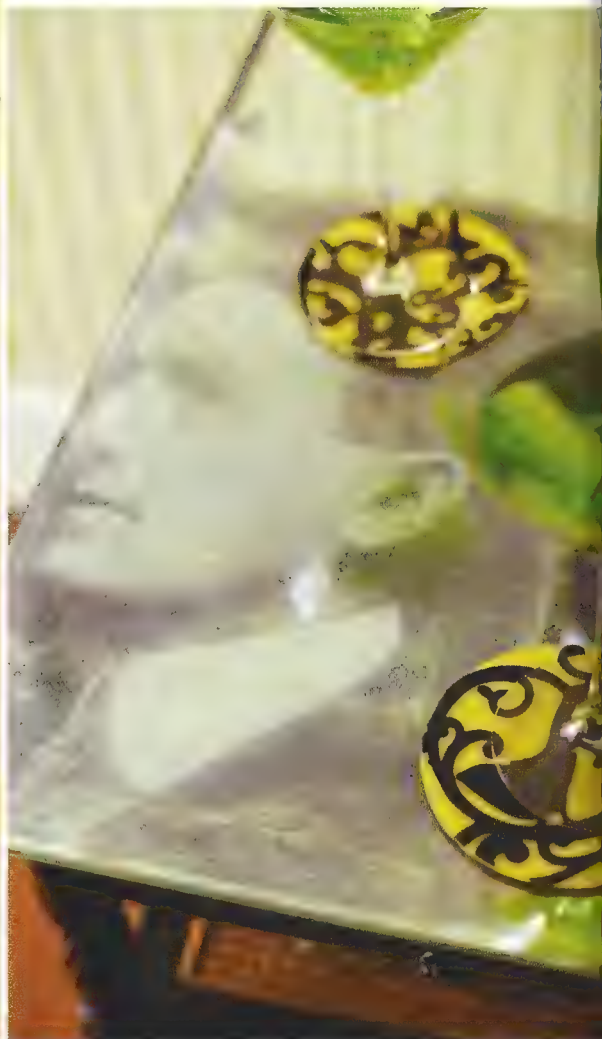
"Boo" Voodoo Pillow

Baste sequin letters to a ready-made pillow, *above*, for an infusion of glitz and whimsy. The letters are easy to remove after the party.

The Edge of Fright

Ghostly grim ravens settle among your sinister collection. Fill your shelves with stark and eerie shapes, and let the shapes cast haunting shadows on the wall.





Menu Venue

Entice guests to the beverage center with an ornate menu board, *above left*, that's magic to craft. The center frame is a ready-made chalkboard. Simply adhere it to a sheet of poster board that's set in a painted-to-match frame.

Tabletop Spirits

Pour your potion into glasses set on vine-covered coasters, *above*. Ghostly visitors join the party through the mirrored tabletop. When the spirits start flowing, more spirits may start showing.

Shroud-of-Bugs Wall Prints

Grasshoppers and other crawling creatures, *left*, won't send your guests screaming from the room, but they might give them the heebie-jeebies. Create prints by taking reverse color photocopies of bug images and slipping them into frames.

Vinery Finery

Reanimate used wine bottles for another round of service. Fill with your mixed libations and create unique labels from clip-art images of antique picture frames.





DYING FOR A
DREADFUL VIEW?
Create an unsettling
scene outside your
window with the help
of a blueprint service
and your digital
camera.



Rest-in-Peace Napkin Rings

A quick-to-make napkin and napkin ring enfold dining essentials and an unexpected take-home guest, *above left*.

Raven Repast

What's that silken and uncertain rustling? More ravens are feasting on appetizers inside a wire cage, *left*. See how many guests are brave enough to risk their fingers.

Dig In

Cheese balls, *top*, rest like mossy boulders on the buffet. Made with Gouda cheese and dill, they are rolled in fresh herbs for a frightening effect.

Bugs-and-Grubs Skewers

Can you hear the quiver of insect wings? Use these creepy skewers, *above*, to neatly stab delectable nibbles.



A Grave Sight

MATERIALS

Digital image of a cemetery
Double-sided tape

INSTRUCTIONS

If necessary, convert your image to black-and-white. Take the image to a blueprint service and have it enlarged to the desired size. **Note:** Prices may vary among services, so you may want to do some comparative shopping before placing your order.

Display the image inside on a window by cutting it into individual panes and taping them in place. If the weather allows, you can also tape the complete image to a window from the outside.



Candle Chic

MATERIALS

Yellow pillar candles
Adhesive-backed black stickers
(available at scrapbooking stores;
we used Heidi Grace and Archiver's)
Black scrapbooking paper
Decorative-edge scissors
Double-sided tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Make an artful arrangement for each candle design using a large motif and filling it in with smaller and partial motifs. When you are pleased with the arrangement, peel and press the stickers to the candles. Tape ribbon around the candle if desired.

Vinery Finery

MATERIALS

Clip-art images of old frames
Wine bottles
Spray adhesive
White gel pen

INSTRUCTIONS

Reverse-print the clip art on your computer, or take your clip art to a photocopy service. Add the names of your potions with a gel pen.

Cut out the shapes and adhere them to bottles filled with your favorite beverages.

Shroud-of-Bugs Wall Prints

MATERIALS

Bug images (from copyright-free science books or clip art, or downloaded from the Internet)
Desired frames

INSTRUCTIONS

Photocopy the images in reverse. The examples shown here are a two-color copy reverse and a full-color copy reverse. Mat and frame as desired.

Rest-in-Peace Napkin Rings

MATERIALS

Lightweight cardboard
Black-and-white houndstooth fabric
Glue gun and hotmelt adhesive
Stretchable skeleton

INSTRUCTIONS

For each napkin ring, cut a 1½×7-inch piece of cardboard. Cut a matching piece from houndstooth, adding ½ inch to all edges.

Center the fabric over the cardboard and glue the excess fabric to the back. Roll the shape into a cylinder, overlapping the ends ¾ inch. Hot-glue in place. Slide a napkin, flatware, and a rubber skeleton into the caddy.

To make your own napkins, cut 12×12-inch squares of black-and-white toile. Press under the edges ¼ inch twice. Machine-sew the hems, mitering the corners for a neat finish.

Trick-or-Treat Favors

MATERIALS

- Thick crafts glue
- Black-and-white scrapbooking papers
- 2¼×3¼×1¼-inch slider boxes
- Black adhesive-backed oval felt frames (available at scrapbooking stores; we used Felt Factory)
- Yellow poster board
- Stickers and transfers of letters and flourishes
- ¾ yard of 7⁄8-inch-wide black silk or sheer ribbon (for each box)

INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare the boxes

For each favor, glue paper around the box cover and to the ends of the inner box.

Create the oval

Trace the inside oval of the felt frame multiple times onto yellow poster board, leaving at least ½ inch between shapes. Adhere lettering to spell out an expression (such as "Boo," "Eek," or "R.I.P.") inside each traced oval, and add a flourish. Make color copies, then cut the ovals ¼ inch outside the traced lines. Remove the backing from the felt frames and adhere them to the paper ovals. Glue the ovals to the box fronts.

Finish the favors

Fill the boxes with treats. Tie the ribbons into bows (for table favors) or into hanging loops (for ornaments).



Ebony for Eternity

MATERIALS

- Assorted plastic and glass items (such as vases, water pitchers, lidded candy dishes, candlesticks, plates, cauldrons, plant holders, and decorative birdcages)
- Matte-black spray paint
- 5-minute epoxy (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Do not spray-paint any surfaces that will come in direct contact with your party food.

Spray-paint all items black, omitting areas such as the interiors of serving cauldrons and the tops of serving plates.

Use the vases, water pitchers, and lidded candy dishes for decorative urns (page 38). For serving pieces, glue candlesticks to the bottom of plates, then glue a cauldron or a serving plate on top or set a cauldron in a plant holder (page 42). Line the bottom of a birdcage and use it for a serving piece (page 43).



"Tattooed" Halloween Candy

INGREDIENTS

- Chocolate transfer sheets (available at kitchen stores; we used Fancy Flours Floral Scroll and Spider Web Black)
- Chocolate or white almond bark squares
- Silicone mat, parchment paper, or foil
- Long offset spatula
- Cookie cutters

or foil. Melt the almond bark squares according to the package directions. Stir until the candy is smooth and very warm to touch (about 115°F).

Pour a thick layer of the melted candy onto the transfer sheet. Using the long offset spatula, carefully spread the chocolate evenly over the transfer sheet. Allow candy to set until it loses its gloss but is still flexible (generally 5–10 minutes). Do not let the candy become too firm. Cut the candy into shapes using the cookie cutters, then carefully peel away the candy shape from the transfer paper.

INSTRUCTIONS

Place the transfer sheet, rough side up, on top of the silicone mat, parchment paper,

Tabletop Spirits

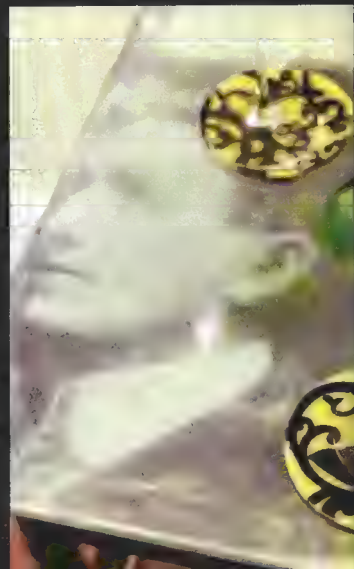
MATERIALS

- Black-and-white photos
- Old mirror
- Rubber gloves
- Razor blades and fine steel wool
- Double-sided tape

INSTRUCTIONS

If necessary, enlarge your photos.

Use razor blades and steel wool to remove the mirror backing where needed. Tape the right side of the photos to the wrong side of the mirror. Place the mirror on a table.





Houndstooth-of-Baskerville Runner

MATERIALS (for one runner)

- Black-and-white houndstooth fabric (see note below)
- Black-and-white toile fabric
- 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ yards *each* of Midori black and yellow 5-inch-wide wire-edged silk ribbon
- 1 yard of iron-on hem tape

Note: Determine all fabric yardages based on your table measurements.

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut the fabrics

Measure the width of your table. Add 20 inches for 10-inch drops and 1 inch for $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowances.

Cut the houndstooth 13 inches wide by the length measurement. Cut the toile 17 inches wide by the length measurement.

Sew the runner

With right sides facing, sew the toile and houndstooth pieces together along one long edge. Match the remaining long edges and sew the seam. Press the seams toward the houndstooth.

Lay the runner so the houndstooth is centered on top of the runner.

The toile will form a 1-inch border on each side. Press the runner, folding under the seam allowance on the short edges. Use hem tape to finish the edges. Topstitch close to each seam through all layers.

Add the ruffles

Cut two 28-inch lengths of each ribbon. Place a yellow length on top of a black length. Roll a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hem on each short raw edge. Sew a gathering thread down the center of the layered ribbons. Gather the ribbon to fit the short end of the runner. Repeat with the remaining ribbons. Pin the gathering line of each ribbon $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from each short edge of the runner and stitch in place.



Menu Venue

MATERIALS

- Ornate picture frame
- Decorative wood filigree
- Matte-black spray paint
- White acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Victorian-style chalkboard (we used Kikkerland)
- Glue gun and hotmelt adhesive
- Black poster board to fit picture frame
- White chalk

INSTRUCTIONS

Paint the picture frame and wood filigree black; let dry.

Thin white paint with water to the consistency of ink. Using a paintbrush, highlight the raised portions of the frame and the filigree with the thinned paint; let dry.

Hot-glue the chalkboard to the poster board, then place it in the frame. Glue filigree to the top of the frame.

Write your drink menu in the center of the chalkboard with chalk.

Bugs-and-Grubs Skewers

MATERIALS

- Bug images (from copyright-free science books or clip art, or downloaded from the Internet)
- Jumbo circle punch
- Crafts glue
- Wood skewers

INSTRUCTIONS

Photocopy the images in reverse. The examples *below* are a two-color copy reverse and a full-color copy reverse.

Using the punch, punch out two bugs for each skewer. Glue the circles together with the skewer in between.

Continued on page 112



"Boo" Voodoo Pillow

MATERIALS

- Ready-made 14×18-inch black pillow
- 3×3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch sequin letter appliques to spell out a Halloween expression (such as "Boo," "Eek," or "R.I.P.")
- Black sewing thread
- Embroidery needle

INSTRUCTIONS

Position and pin the letters on the pillow top.

Loosely baste the letters in place so they can be removed easily.





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PRODUCED BY WENDY MUSGRAVE WRITTEN BY DEBRA WITTRUP PHOTOGRAPHED BY GREG SCHEIDEMANN



♣ **RAISE THE CURTAIN** Set the stage, *opposite*, for your theater with a simple setup that will work in any corner of your home. Metallic door fringe frames the stage, while a child's easel heralds the show and holds your magician's props. Tie the curtain back with shimmering silver stars. Give the youngsters a place to practice with a black-cloth-covered table draped in sparkling sequin fabric.

♥ **ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS** Ta-da! Get everyone excited with pop-up invitations, *right*, that announce the theme of your party. Card stock, some jazzy fabric for the hatband, glue, and our playful patterns (page 60) are all you need to make an impression and create anticipation for your young guests.





Who needs smoke and mirrors when you have top-notch performers like these kids? Thrills, suspense, and magic go hand in hand with Halloween, so invite your budding conjurers to a party with a magic show theme that dresses them up and places them center stage.

Greet the kids with clever personalized costumes that will put them in the mood to showcase their talents and share in the fun. After all, who can be shy when she's got "magnificent" or "phenomenal" written across her cape? Devise several easy tricks to teach your guests (we'll get you started), give each of them the opportunity to be in the spotlight, and watch the excitement unfold. Pretty soon they'll be sharing their magic secrets with each other and maybe even coming up with a few tricks of their own.

After the show, entertain the kids with treats that are as playful as they are tasty. Let them pull a "rabbit" out of hat and discover it's sweet to eat. Present them with an end-of-performance bouquet that hides a delicious treat.

Finish the day with some simple card tricks (check out cardtrickcorner.com), and by the time your party is over, you'll have a houseful of star illusionists.

SET THE STAGE
for tons of fun



AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION Each little performer, *above*, will feel even more magical with a stage persona that plays on his or her name. Once you've learned their tricks, gather them around the stage and let the show begin.

NOTHING UP YOUR SLEEVE Magicians don't astound their audience, *opposite left*. These tricks are performed with scarves you prepare ahead of time. Find out how to create the scarf chain and the changing scarf trick on *page 59* and *62*.

DRESSED FOR SUCCESS Magical names adorn the robes, *right*, while party-favor stuffed rabbits pop out of sequin-trimmed top hats. Add gloves, a bow tie, a red cummerbund, and a wand for each guest, and the show's costume is complete.



AMAZE YOUR friends

abracadabra!

I will wave my magic
wand and a bird will
magically appear!

poof!

... now you see it,
now you don't!
Shhh! Don't tell her
that the bird was there
all along!



**surprise! ... I fooled
you! The bird is
attached to the
bottom of the plate!**



♥ **ALL IN THE CARDS** The black white-and-red color scheme for the party was inspired by the playing cards that are featured at the treats table, *above*. Framed face cards line the wall and a garland of playing cards hangs nearby. On the table, a pumpkin painted with card motifs serves as the centerpiece. Card tricks, anyone?

SOMETHING FUN
for everyone



♠ **TRICKS FOR TREATS** All those great tricks deserve handfuls of treats, *right*. Create a top hat brimming with Halloween candy for the kids to sample throughout the party. It won't be long before the sweets have vanished right before your eyes.

♦ **BRIMMING WITH BUNNIES** Pull a "rabbit" out of a hat, *above*. Top waffle cones with Sno-Ball cupcakes. Add faces with fondant icing shapes and ears made of foam pieces. Insert the cones into an upturned top hat: Trace the brim of the hat onto cardboard and a piece of black paper. Cut out the shapes; spray-mount the paper to the cardboard. Cut 1½-inch circles in the cardboard to hold the cones. Hot-glue the cardboard holder onto the hat brim.

♣ **STAR PERFORMANCE** Reward your little magicians, *above right*, with a treat-centered bouquet. Make the huge poppy party favors with folded tissue paper and homemade Rice Krispies treats. Make one for each guest, and personalize it with his or her name.

watch these
treats
disappear



TASTY TREATS

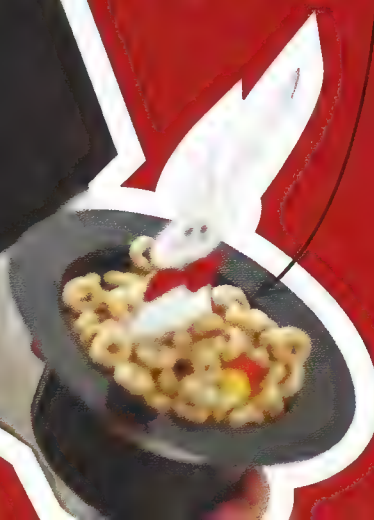
are sure to disappear



hocus-pocus! ... watch me make all these goodies vanish in the blink of an eye!

♠ **ACES HIGH** Sensational sandwiches, *above*, are a cinch to make. Remove crust from each slice of bread. Spread strawberry jam on half the slices. Using miniature cookies cutters, cut a design in the center of the remaining slices and place on top of the slice with jam. Serve on a bed of carrot greens.

◆ **MYSTERY MIX** Make an easy but yummy snack, *left*, by mixing cereal with candy corn. Pour the mixture into mini top hats, and insert a card-stock bunny (pattern on page 59) into each one.



♣ PICK A CARD Create themed serving trays with black photo frames and playing cards. Center a large card in a photo mat and surround it with smaller cards for a clever border. With your leftover cards, fill another frame completely for another serving surface.





Costume

MATERIALS

Low-temp fusible web
Silver/black dance-wear knit fabric
Sequin knit fabrics: red and silver
Red sequin trim
Letter stencils (or a computer)
Fabrics glue
Red plastic sew-on gems
Metal round-hole snap-clip barrettes
Black plastic child-size top hat
Spray adhesive
White plastic-coated paper clip
Black ½-inch elastic

INSTRUCTIONS

Make the cape: Cut the silver/black dance-wear knit into a 29×27-inch rectangle. Round two corners on the top (29-inch) side.

Use letter stencils for patterns, or print out letters for your stage names in a selected font from a computer. Iron fusible web to the backs of the red and silver fabric, enough to include all the letters you need. Using your patterns, cut out the letters. Arrange letters on the back side of the cape, remove the paper backing and place the letters on the fabric. Fuse to the cape with an iron, following the manufacturer's directions.

Cut a 14-inch-long piece of red sequin trim. Center trim on the back top edge of the cape. Attach to the cape with fabrics glue, folding over 1 inch on each end, and glue to the silver side of the fabric. Hand-stitch a red gem to the cape at both ends of the trim on the black side of the fabric. On the silver side of the fabric, aligned to the underside of the gems, hand-stitch to secure the snap-clip barrettes to the cape,

perpendicular to the top edge of the cape. To wear the cape, attach the snap clips to the neck of the child's shirt.

Make the cummerbund: Cut a 16×3-inch piece of fusible web. Cut a 16×10-inch piece of red sequin fabric. Fuse the web with an iron to the back side of the red sequin fabric, aligning fusible web at the 16-inch edge. Remove paper backing. Fold fabric over fusible web and using an iron, fuse 1 inch of fabric together, closest to the fold. When cool, fold fabric back ½ inch and fuse another inch of fabric together. Repeat with one more fold. Trim fabric to clean up edges. Hand-stitch a 12-inch-long piece of elastic to the center of the short end of the cummerbund, with elastic running along the front side of the fabric. Fold elastic and a ½-inch seam allowance to the back side, and stitch to secure. Fold down the corners of the seam allowance to the back side and stitch to finish off the end. Repeat on opposite end.

Make the bow tie: Cut a 3×4-inch piece of fusible web. Fuse to the back side of the red sequin fabric. When cool, trim fabric to the size of the fusible web. Remove web paper and fold the sequin fabric over on itself

edge to edge. Fuse together with an iron, using a press cloth or sheet of plain paper to prevent the sequins from adhering to the iron. Gather the sequin cloth in the center and hand-stitch to secure. Stitch a plastic-coated paper clip to the back of the bow tie. Use the paper clip to attach the tie to the child's shirt.

Make the hatband: Cut a 2-inch-wide band of red sequin fabric to fit around the hat. Spray the back of the band with spray adhesive and adhere around the hat.

Magic-Show Stage

MATERIALS

Two packages door curtain fringe
One package party fringe
Low-tack painter's tape
Red glitter foam letter stickers
Two 9-inch silver cardboard stars

INSTRUCTIONS

Use the fringe and curtain to make a stage. Pull back curtains and tape them in place. Spell out magic words with foam letter stickers; space them on the cardboard stars. When satisfied with the placement, adhere the letters to the cardboard. Tape the stars to the curtains.



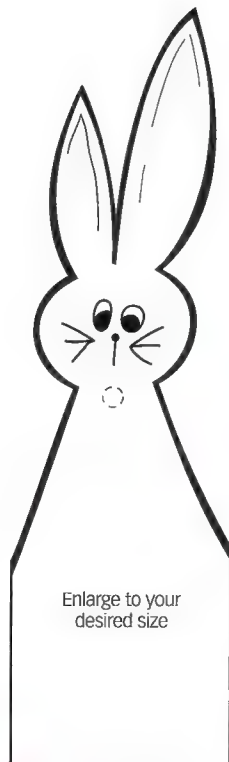
Bunny Picks

MATERIALS

White card stock
Pink marker
Red sequin knit fabric
Glue gun and hotmelt adhesive

INSTRUCTIONS

Enlarge and trace the bunny on white card stock; cut out. Color his ears and cheeks with the marker. Cut a piece of fabric for the bow tie. Gather fabric in the center and adhere with hot glue.



MATERIALS

Lightweight woven fabrics: red, black, and white
1-inch loose-leaf ring (from office supply store)

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut one 12-inch square from each of the red, black, and white fabrics. Finish edges with a zigzag stitch close to the fabrics' edges.

Color-Changing Scarf Trick

Fold one corner of the black scarf and stitch $\frac{5}{8}$ inch from the fold. Open the loose-leaf ring and slip it through the pocket created by the stitching. Close the loop and arrange fabric around the loop. Fold the corners adjacent to the ring together; pin. Starting at the ring, stitch the scarf edges together, stitching as close as possible to the edge of the scarf. Leave a one-inch opening on the end opposite the ring.

Stitch the red and white scarves together at one corner. Thread the red and white scarves through the ring to the other open end of the black scarf. Line up the sewn corners of the red

and white scarves with the nonring corner of the black "tube" scarf. Pin and stitch them together at the corner, taking care that no red is showing on the white side and no white is showing on the red side. When sewn together, one of the colors will be inside the black scarf and the other color will be exposed.

To perform the trick, hold onto the ring of the tube scarf. Pull the corner of the scarf sticking out of the ring. This turns the scarf inside out over the top of the other scarf giving the illusion that the scarf is changing colors. It can be performed again and again without resetting.



Serving Trays

MATERIALS

Black photo frame with mat openings for three photos
Decks of playing cards—two sizes
Crafts glue

INSTRUCTIONS

Place the smaller-size playing cards facedown edge to edge over the photo backing. Place a larger-size card in each photo opening. Adhere the cards with glue and let dry.



Invitation

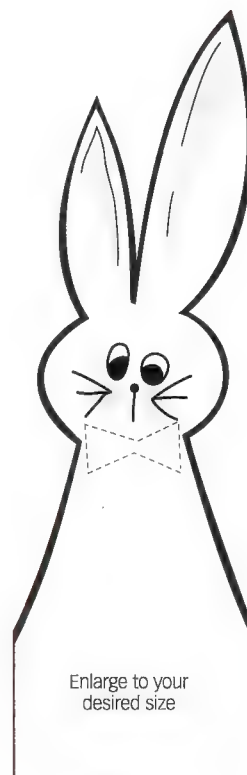
MATERIALS

White card stock
Black card stock
Pink marker
Red sequin knit fabric
Press-on letters
Crafts glue

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: For the downloadable version, go to BHG.com/halloweentricks.

Enlarge and trace one hat shape on white card stock and one on black card stock; cut out. Enlarge and trace the bunny on white card stock; cut out. Color his ears and cheeks with the marker. Cut a band of fabric for the hat and bow tie. Adhere with glue and let dry. Press on the letters for the invitation front. Apply glue around the edges of the white hat shape except the top. Place the black hat shape over the white and press; let dry. Write the details of your party on the bunny shape.



Poppy Party Favor

MATERIALS

Rice Krispies treats
Wooden dowels (one for each treat)
Cling wrap
Name-tag stars (or red letter and star stickers)
Red tissue paper
Red chenille stems (one for each treat)
Black tissue paper
Glue gun and hotmelt adhesive
Crafts glue

INSTRUCTIONS

Make the treat center: Make Rice Krispies treats according to the recipe on the box. Cut the treats into 3-inch circles. Insert a dowel into the side of each treat and wrap the treat in cling wrap. Write each child's name on a name tag or use red letter and star stickers. Glue tag to center of wrapped treat.

Make the flower: Cut red tissue paper into 16×20-inch rectangles. Stack six sheets together and accordion-fold tissue paper from the 16-inch end, folding 1½ inches at a time. Round both ends of the folded tissue paper with scissors. Wrap a red chenille stem around the center of the folded paper. Pull apart folded paper, layer by layer, to form the flower.

To make the black fringe, layer four sheets of black tissue paper 3½ inches wide. Fold in half lengthwise. Snip fringe to ½ inch wide, being careful not to cut through the fold. Hot-glue the black fringe around the sides of the Rice Krispies treats. Pull the center of the flower apart and secure the treat to the center of the red flower with hot glue.



Rice Krispies Treats

- 6 cups Kellogg's Rice Krispies cereal
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 10-ounce package of regular marshmallows (about 40)

Coat a 13×9×2-inch pan with cooking spray and set aside.

In a large saucepan, melt butter over low heat. If using a microwave, heat butter and marshmallows in a microwave-safe bowl for 3 minutes on high. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat. *Note: Fresh marshmallows provide the best results, but one 7-ounce jar of marshmallow creme can be substituted for marshmallows.*

Add Rice Krispies cereal. Stir until well coated.

Using a buttered spatula or wax paper, evenly press mixture into pan. Cool before cutting into circles.

Top Hat Candy Bowl

MATERIALS

Black plastic top hat
Black scrapbook glitter letter stickers
Red glitter foam letter stickers
9-inch silver metallic cardboard star
White child-size gloves
Aluminum foil
Wooden dowels
Silver star wire garland

INSTRUCTIONS

For the sign, use letter stickers to spell out "watch these treats disappear" on a silver cardboard star. Space the letters as desired and adhere to the cardboard. To make the hands, stuff both gloves with aluminum foil. Bend the foil-filled gloves to shape the palm and fingers. Insert the dowel into each glove, and wrap with silver star wire garland to secure. Wind the garland along the length of the dowel.

Fill the top hat with candy, and push the dowels into the candy. Place a point of the silver star into the candy.



Scarf Chain

MATERIALS

- Secondhand suit jacket
- Sequin fabrics: silver and red
- Black-and-white patterned fabric

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut fabrics into six 12-inch squares. Stitch three squares into a chain at their corners. If your suit jacket doesn't have an inside pocket, cut a slit into the lining. Place the chain of scarves into the pocket/lining. Thread the scarf chain up the sleeve of the jacket. Give the child the three unconnected scarves to show the audience, then put into a jacket pocket. The child will pull the chain of colorful scarves out of the sleeve of the jacket to do the trick.

Dove Trick

MATERIALS

- Two small red plastic disposable plates
- Crafts knife
- 1/2-inch-wide elastic
- Glue gun and hotmelt adhesive
- Small faux dove
- Silver sequin fabric

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut two small slits approximately 3 inches apart on the plate using a

crafts knife. Thread the elastic through the slits so the ends are on the top of the plate and the loop is on the bottom. Fold elastic ends in towards the center of the plate and secure with hot glue. Put a ring of hot glue around the inside of the plate and glue the second plate on top. Glue dove to the center of the plate. Cut a 12-inch square of silver sequin fabric for the scarf.

Pumpkin Centerpiece

MATERIALS

- Large artificial pumpkin (we used Funkins)
- White spray paint
- Black and red acrylic paint
- Assorted paintbrushes

INSTRUCTIONS

Paint the pumpkin with white spray paint. When dry, draw large playing card suit shapes onto it. Paint the heart and the diamond shapes with red acrylic paint and the spade and club shapes with black acrylic paint. Drill holes into the top of the pumpkin to hold the dowel stems of the tissue-paper poppy favors.



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black & bling

Check out these spooky decorating ideas from our bony friend Virginia

DIY PUMPKIN DECORATING IDEAS BY JESSICA RIVERS PHOTOGRAPHED BY KIP DAWKINS

Posh Pumpkins

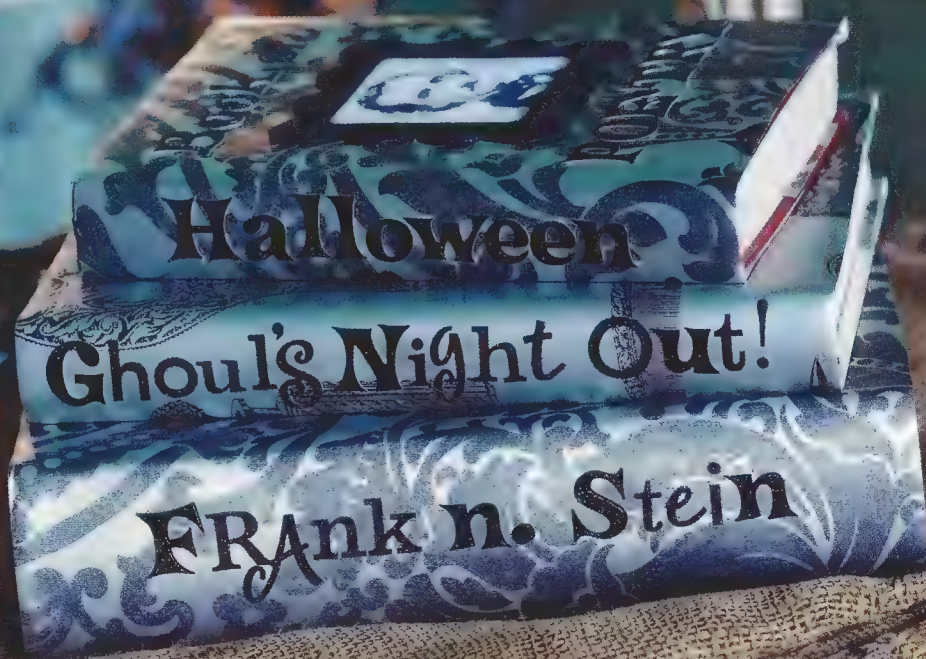
Create a corner for creatures of the night to gather. Decorate faux pumpkins with black and ivory acrylic paint, then jazz them up with peel-and-stick rhinestones and letters. Brush fabrics glue on old silk-flower leaves, and sprinkle them with glitter. Paint a huge spider silver. Now that's creepy!



Eerie Reflections

Make no bones about it—this project is easy. Paint a composition frame black, and add a mirror. Then borrow the head and arms from an almost-life-size skeleton, and attach them to the top and sides.





Halloween

Ghoul's Night Out!

FRANK n. Stein



VIRGINIA'S POEM

As I pondered weak and weary,
 Why my decorations were so very dreary,
 "I have nothing that goes with orange," I said,
 "And to use corn candy—I'd rather be dead.
 My life is about jewels and metals and shine.
 To be so conforming would cause me to whine.
 I must create accents that go with my style,
 With diamonds and rubies and velvet, oh my."
 As my designs filled spaces from ceiling to floor
 And I swept my doldrums right out the door,
 A raven in a tiara screeched, "Boring nevermore!"

THE END

Jacket Required

You *can* judge a book, *opposite*, by its cover. With the right dressing, even the most boring read gets noted. Using the original jacket as a pattern, cut a new one from wallpaper scraps or gift wrap. Embellish the fronts and spines with stick-on felt frames and self-adhesive lettering, mixing typefaces for fun.

Pillow Glam

This easy-to-find black faux leather, *above*, is just the right touch. Usually used to cover boat seats, it's durable yet inexpensive. The secret to the metallic shine of the designs is in the paint. It's a bit tricky to work with but, oh, what a treat when you're finished! With Rub 'n Buff cream, it's all in the name. Put the tiniest amount of paint on your stencil brush, then rub it in circles to fill in the designs. Let the cream dry for 48 hours, then lightly buff the motifs to get the shine. Remember, a little goes a long way—too much and it'll smear!



Strange Relations

We all have skeletons in our closets, *left*. Why not show off some of your family's most notable? Or borrow a few from history to add to your collection. Print your photos, and mount them on card stock. Decorate the images with jewels, and add wiggly eyes.

Frightful Lighting

Don't be bugged by traditional lighting, *below*. Like magic, you can transform it with critter crystals. String beads and bugs, and attach them with small magnets or wire. For garlands, swag party necklaces from arm to arm. After Halloween, simply remove and store. No harm done!





Good Bones

Yes, Virginia, there are spooks in your attic. And with a torso like that, you're a bit ghoulish yourself, even in your finery. Beauty really is in the eye of the beholder!

Quote this
raven, "Tricks,
treats, and
tiaras—let's
party!"



The Silvered Skull

It's a smile, *above*, only a mother could love—the mother of Frankenstein, that is! If you're looking for a perfect raven's perch, craft your own bust of Pallas from a plastic-foam skull and a newel post cap. Humor the bird with a tiny tiara.

Glass with Class

As night approaches and lights flicker, *left*, you'll find these elegant candleholders irresistible. Using double-stick tape, wrap strips of scrapbooking paper around each votive holder, then decorate with rhinestone embellishments.

Chandelier

MATERIALS

Large, heavy hand-sewing needle
Lightweight black jewelry wire
Assorted clear-acrylic faceted prisms
8-mm faceted black beads
6-mm round silver beads
Rubber spiders and bugs
7×11-mm silver magnetic jewelry clasps
Silver bead party necklaces

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Our instructions are for magnetic crystals. Attach yours with thin silver wire if magnets will not work on your fixture.

Choose a sewing needle large enough to pass through the rubber creatures. Loop a wire length through a prism and twist twice to secure. Thread beads, alternating black and silver, on the wire. Push the needle through a spider or bug, and thread the remaining beads. Finish by attaching a magnetic clasp to the top.

To make the bead garlands, cut the party bead necklaces to size and hang with wire.

Silvered Skull

MATERIALS

Closet pole or heavy dowel
Wooden newel post cap
Five-minute epoxy
Painter's tape
Foam or composite skull
Silver spray paint
Rhinestone
Faux crow
Miniature jeweled tiara

INSTRUCTIONS

To make the stand, cut the pole to length, center on the newel post cap, and glue in place. Press tape over the

mouth and eyes of the skull. Spray-paint skull and stand; let dry. Remove the tape, and glue a rhinestone on one tooth. Place the skull on the stand; glue in place. Rest the crow on the skull, and top it with the tiara.

Pillows

MATERIALS

Black vinyl fabric (pleather, leatherette, etc.)
Silver Rub 'n Buff or stencil paint
Paper plate
Stencil brush
Stencils: candlestick and spiderweb
Painter's tape
Fiberfill
Hair dryer
Large, heavy hand-sewing needle and thread

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Test your stenciling skills on a fabric scrap before you begin.

Cut two fabric squares of the same

size. Put a small dot of Rub 'n Buff on a paper plate, and work it into your stencil brush. Rub off most of the paint on a paper towel; your brush should be dry to the touch. Tape a stencil to a fabric square with painter's tape. Using a circular stenciling motion, apply the design to the fabric. Let the paint dry at least 48 hours. Buff with a soft cloth.

With right sides together, sew the fabric squares together, leaving an opening for stuffing in the center of one seam, to make the pillow cover. Turn the cover right side out. Using a pressing cloth folded twice, steam-press the vinyl seams to flatten, being careful not to touch the vinyl with the iron.

Stuff the cover with fiberfill. Using the needle and thread, slip-stitch the opening closed. Holding the hair dryer 6 to 8 inches from the surface, blow-dry the seams to tighten and soften any vinyl that stretched during assembly.

Dressed for Success

Virginia, dressed in a taffeta skirt with a velvet-ribbon band and a faux-fur boa accented with a rhinestone spider brooch, catches up with her reading.



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These creepy crawlers, spooky cats, ghastly ghosts, spine-chilling skeletons and kooky creatures are ready to thrill, chill—and be savored!



eerie edibles

FOOD STYLED BY GREG LUNA WRITTEN BY JINI MORANVILLE RECIPES DEVELOPED BY SHELLI MCCONNELL PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARTY BALDWIN



"Hairry" the Scary Spider
What's scarier than a spider? A furry one—with fangs, no less! This treat starts as a chocolate cake baked in a bowl and slathered with icing. Creme-filled rolled wafers give "Hairry" his lanky legs, candies give him those googly eyes, and chocolate curls make him fearfully furry ... in a cute kind of way.



The Tunnies Dive In

These three spine-tingling skeletons lie in freshly dug graves in a lonely boneyard (the crypts are actually chocolate graham crackers atop green-tinted coconut and piles of cracker-crumb "dirt"). Sandwich cookies stand in for terrifying tombstones, and the alabaster bones are pretzel sticks dipped in melted white chocolate. Piped melted chocolate transforms sweet marshmallows into the haunting heads of these bygone boys.





Not-So-Creepy Alley Cat Pop

Partygoers won't care one bit if this black cat crosses their paths—especially when the feline is just a rice-cereal-marshmallow bar in delicious chocolate disguise. Superstitious? Melted butterscotch chips turn black cats into less-scary calico kitties. Candy trims make this crazed cat as scary or spooky as you like.





Jack-o'-Lantern Cheese Ball

You'll turn cream cheese into a total goofball when you dress it up as a playful pumpkin head. Nacho cheese-flavor snack chips bring a crunchy coat of orange, while black olive pieces add that deranged smile and those ghostly vacant eyes. Top with a baby dill pickle to stand in for a stem, and this silly spook is ready to relish.





Spooky Stew

Every party needs a few hearty offerings to balance out the snacks and sweets. You can turn shepherd's pie into a ghoulish delight when you top individual servings of the meaty stew with whipped potatoes piped into ghostly shapes. Murky green capers give these specters their creepy beady eyes.



Batty Bites

Will your guests take flight—or a bite—when they see these fleaky fliers? Chances are they'll nibble rather than run, as chocolate-dipped toaster pastries make tasty wings, while chocolate-covered sandwich cookies fill the role of the bats' bodies. Colorful decorative sprinkles make the clever creatures silly rather than sinister.





Cockeyed Cuckoos

Looking to scare up some laughs? These barmy birds will get the giggles going! Start with meatballs and marinara sauce atop ciabatta rolls, and add a little hocus-pocus here and there: cream cheese balls dotted with olive pieces for the eyes, sweet peppers for the beaks and brows, plus snipped chives and shredded carrots to top off our featherbrained friends.

Spooky Stew

Spoon your favorite hot stew into individual serving dishes, filling each about two-thirds full. Using a pastry bag fitted with a large plain round tip, pipe hot mashed potatoes into a ghost shape on top of each. Use capers for ghost eyes. Sprinkle shredded cheddar cheese around the base of each ghost.

Alley Cat Pops

Insert a frozen-treat stick into the end of your favorite peanut butter- or marshmallow-flavored cereal bar rectangles. Brush tops and sides of each rectangle with melted semisweet chocolate; place coated rectangles on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper. Let stand until chocolate is set.

For ears, cut triangle shapes from heavy-duty foil. Brush some melted chocolate onto one side of triangles; place on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper. Chill until chocolate is set. Brush some melted butterscotch-flavored pieces to make spots on rectangles. Use candy-coated milk chocolate pieces with a dot of melted chocolate for eyes and a confetti sprinkle for the nose. Pipe on melted white baking pieces for whiskers and a mouth.

Peel foil from chocolate ears and use melted chocolate to stick them on to the back of the rectangles. Chill to set.

Jack-o'-Lantern Cheese Ball

Make your favorite cream cheese ball recipe and shape the mixture into one large ball and one small ball. Roll each ball in crushed nacho-cheese flavored snack chips. Place cheese balls on a kale-lined platter. Cut pitted ripe olives into triangle-shape pieces. Press olive pieces into cheese ball, making eyes and a mouth (you may need to remove chips from those areas to help them stick). Place a dill pickle half on the top of each for a stem.

Batty Bites

For a large bat, cut a chocolate-flavored breakfast pastry in half diagonally. For a small bat, cut a chocolate-flavored

breakfast pastry in half diagonally and then in half again, making four triangles.

To make a bat, carefully dip one side of two pastry triangles into melted semisweet chocolate. Place triangles, chocolate sides up, on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper. Embellish triangle wings with decorative sprinkles.

Dip a chocolate, cream-filled sandwich cookie (large for a large bat and miniature for a small bat) into melted chocolate. Place a cookie body on top of the triangle wings. Add eyes of almonds, sunflower kernels, and/or pumpkin seeds. For the almond eyes, use miniature chocolate pieces as pupils. Chill until chocolate is set.

Scary Spider Cake

Prepare and bake a 1-layer cake mix according to package instructions, except pour batter into a greased and floured 1½-quart glass mixing bowl. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Let cake stand at room temperature for 5 minutes.

Remove cake from bowl and cool completely, top side down, on a wire rack.

Cut 8 crème-filled rolled wafer cookies in half at a slight angle. Dip the angled ends of each cookie into some melted semisweet chocolate; place the two dipped ends together on the baking sheet lined with waxed paper to form a leg. Chill until chocolate is set.

Frost rounded surface of cake with chocolate frosting. Add white licorice pastel candies to make a mouth. Place rounded pastel wafer candies on as eyes. Use frosting to stick candy-coated milk chocolate pieces on as pupils. Cut two corners from red licorice candy; use pointy corners as fangs. Top cake with curly grated milk chocolate. Insert cookie legs into each side of cake.



Tombstone Trio

For each skeleton, cut a large marshmallow in half forming two rounds. Dip marshmallow rounds and some thick pretzel stick pieces into melted white baking chocolate; place on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper. Chill until set.

Using a pastry bag fitted with a small round tip, pipe chocolate frosting onto marshmallow halves to make skeleton faces. Pipe a little frosting on a chocolate graham cracker and attach a marshmallow skeleton head. Pipe a little frosting lengthwise onto the undersides of coated pretzel pieces, attaching them to the graham cracker to create a skeleton body. Use some melted white chocolate baking chocolate to pipe ribs onto the skeleton over the spine.

Line a serving platter with green tinted coconut "grass." Sprinkle on crushed chocolate graham crackers as "dirt." Stick the remaining marshmallow halves partly underneath the skeleton-topped graham crackers to prop them up; place on "dirt." Using chocolate frosting, decorate a chocolate-filled butter cookie as a tombstone. Stick a cookie into each marshmallow half, positioning it as a tombstone.

Cockeyed Cuckoos

For each sandwich, spoon two hot marinara-sauced meatballs on top of a split and toasted roll. Roll two small pieces of cream cheese into balls.

Gently push a cream cheese ball to the front of each meatball, making an eye. Cut pitted ripe olives into small pieces; press to the front of each cream cheese ball as a pupil. Cut orange and/or yellow sweet peppers into pieces; arrange on meatballs as beaks and eyebrows. Arrange julienne carrots and/or chives on sandwiches to resemble feathers.

Ready to get your Halloween on? These kid-pleasing party ideas will help you weave a web of fun and happy high-jinx for all little ghoul and goblin guests to enjoy. Choose just a few projects or dig into the whole kit and ca-boo(!)-dle.

ultimate PARTY GUIDE



WRITTEN BY LAURA HOLTORF COLLINS

invitations & favors

From start to finish, make this year's trick-or-treat shindig the to-die-for event of the season. Grab kids' attention right off the bat with the coolest invites, and then keep it—long after the party's end—with memorable take-home favors.

Treat Bag This tiny bag is sweet inside and out. To make one, download the pattern from BHG.com/halloweentricks. Cut the pattern pieces from felt. Also from felt, cut a 2×4¼-inch black rectangle, two 5¼×7½-inch orange rectangles (bag front and back), and a 3½×22-inch orange strip (bag sides/bottom). Glue the design to the front, centering the black rectangle ¼ inch from the bottom edge. With wrong sides together and a ½-inch seam, sew one long edge of strip to sides and bottom of front; trim excess. Attach back in same way. Trim with pinking shears. Add ribbon handles. DESIGN BY BRENDA PINNICK PROVIDED BY FLUSON.COM

party countdown

Your little ones are clamoring for a Halloween party, but you get the heebie-jeebies wondering just where, how, and when to start. Don't go batty—just follow these prompts, and enlist the kids' help. You'll come through with flying colors.

two weeks before

- ✓ Mail out the invitations
- ✓ Settle on your family's costumes
- ✓ Make decorations
- ✓ Purchase prizes and paper- and plasticware for the table

one week before

- ✓ Buy nonperishable groceries
- ✓ Plan and assemble supplies for party games and crafts projects
- ✓ Call guests who haven't RSVP'd

day before

- ✓ Prepare foods that can be made in advance
- ✓ Fill favor bags
- ✓ Prepare area for crafting
- ✓ Purchase perishable foods
- ✓ Put up decorations

party day

- ✓ Prepare last-minute foods, such as popcorn, pizzas, and punch
- ✓ Set up food and activities
- ✓ Get into your costume, and start the music!

Take-Home Topper

For your Halloween party, include an incognito treat at each place setting, or arrange dozens in a display to hand out at the end of the evening. To make this topper, use a die cut or download the pattern from BHG.com/halloweentricks onto tracing paper.

Cut two of each shape from colored card stock. Place the pumpkins on a surface, flopping one so it mirrors the other. Glue black paper over the face openings and attach the collar. On the opposite (front) side, add the hat. Glue a head to each side of a candy stick and finish with a bow tied at the neck. PROVIDED BY ELLISON.COM



Stinky Feet

Party animals will get a kick out of this take-home goodie. Cut white card stock to fit around a candy bar. Press the Trick or Feet stamp into a black ink pad, and stamp the image in the center of the card stock; let dry. Color the image with watercolor pencils.

Tear the edges of the stamped paper and other colored papers if desired, and sponge them with black ink. Tape the paper around the candy. Sponge ink along the folds and lightly on the front for a distressed effect.

PROVIDED BY STAMPENDOUS.COM

Take Me to Your Party

Crafting this invite is anything but robotic. With Spot's Botz and Hot Botz mix-and-match stamps from Stampendous!, you can play Frankenstein and make every monster unique. This robot is created by stamping with black ink on white card stock, starting at the feet and working upward to the head. When the ink is dry, color the design with watercolor pencils. Add stickers, sparkling adhesive dots, and glitter, and the monster comes to life!

DESIGNED BY DEBI HAMMONS, PROVIDED BY STAMPENDOUS.COM



decorations

Decorations appear out of thin air as soon as you plan the games, crafts activities, and treats: a pin-the-wart on the witch's nose becomes wall art, colorful supplies fill a crafting corner, and food and favors make the party table festive.

Let me greet
all the little
goblins that
come to your
door for
treats!



Candy Corn Centerpiece

Jack-o'-lanterns, step aside! This painted dude is a cute twist on the carved version and will last so much longer.

Start by painting a small crafts pumpkin to mimic a piece of candy corn. Form the nose from Model Magic air-drying compound, and glue it to the center section. Glue wiggly eyes in place and then draw a mouth with a black paint pen.

For shoes, cut a plastic-foam egg in half lengthwise. Paint two 12-inch-long, 1/2-inch-diameter dowels for the legs. Roll two 2-inch balls of Model Magic compound for the socks. Push one end of a dowel through each sock and then through the small end of a plastic-foam shoe. Remove the dowels to paint the socks and shoes; when they're dry, reassemble and glue the pieces to the legs. Trace around the shoes two times each on purple and lime crafts foam for soles; glue in place.

For arms, twist together three chenille stems. Using Model Magic compound, form mitts on the arms. Paint the mitts to match the legs.

Cut holes or use a screwdriver to punch holes into the pumpkin to hold the legs and arms; secure the arms and legs in place with glue.

DESIGN BY DECOART; PROVIDED BY MICHAELS.COM

CHILLS & THRILLS



Create atmosphere by playing CDs of eerie noises and Halloween music. Set up a theater area to run DVDs of Halloween cartoons and movies.



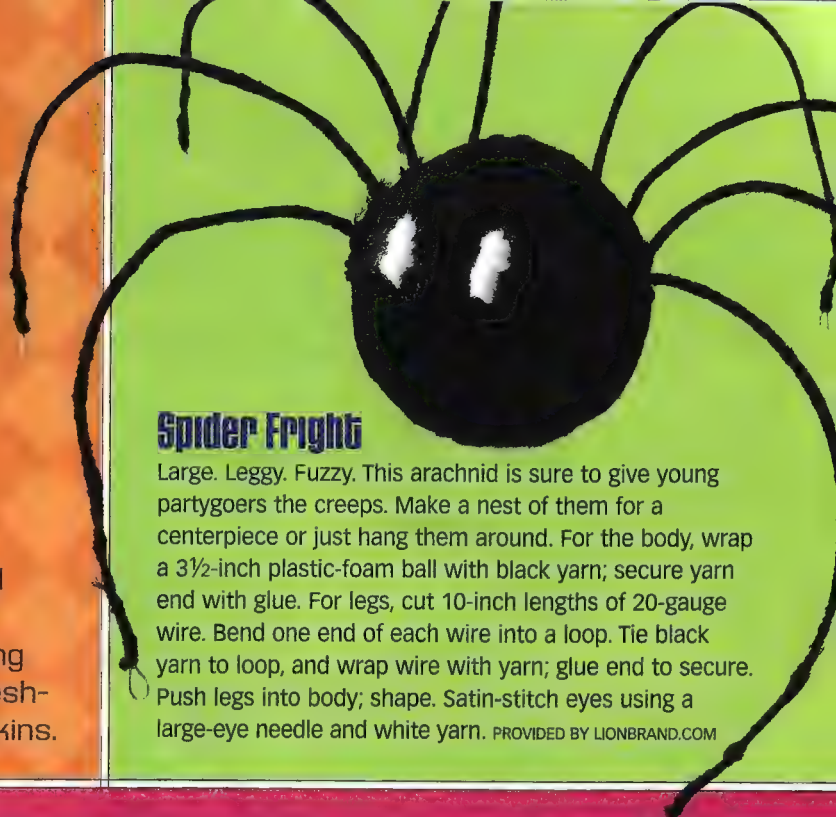
Turn off the lights and illuminate the scene with colored bulbs, strings of twinkling lights, flashlights, and anything that glows in the dark.



Create tactile fun by hanging spiderwebbing, crepe paper streamers, and strings of beads all around the party room.



Greet your guests with welcoming aromas: cinnamon-spiced cider, fresh-popped popcorn, and carved pumpkins.



Spider Fright

Large. Leggy. Fuzzy. This arachnid is sure to give young partygoers the creeps. Make a nest of them for a centerpiece or just hang them around. For the body, wrap a 3½-inch plastic-foam ball with black yarn; secure yarn end with glue. For legs, cut 10-inch lengths of 20-gauge wire. Bend one end of each wire into a loop. Tie black yarn to loop, and wrap wire with yarn; glue end to secure. Push legs into body; shape. Satin-stitch eyes using a large-eye needle and white yarn. PROVIDED BY LIONBRAND.COM

Try a neighborhood party and spread the fun, with a meal at one house and crafts, games, and storytelling at others.

Halloween Boo-levard

Mesmerize little ones with this haunting Main Street display. Start with clean, dry cartons in pint, half-pint, and quart sizes. Cut away the tabs at the tops (where the cartons are sealed). Sand the outside of each carton to remove some of the wax and sheen. Paint the top portion (from the fold up) with several coats of black paint; let dry. Fold the painted portion inside the carton and secure with tape. Wrap the bottom portion with patterned paper.

For a roof, cut one 3×4½-inch rectangle each from card stock and patterned paper, adjusting the size as needed; tape the shapes together. Trim short ends using decorative-edge scissors. Fold the rectangle in half, and tape it to the carton.

Use punches for the skull, ghost (a comma), and spiders (a daisy). Use a stamp for the pumpkins. Add black card-stock accents for eaves and windows, trimming them with decorative-edge scissors and punches. Check Sources on page 113 for items such as doors and adhesive lettering.

PROVIDED BY FISKARS.COM



food & drinks

At the most successful Halloween parties everyone comes in costume—and that includes the treats. To keep munching frightfully fun and easy, disguise packaged foods as spooky characters and invite your guests to dig in!



I've Only Got Eyes For You


Watch eyes pop when you set the table with these wacky beverage glasses. For each plastic cup, use a crafts knife to cut a 1-inch-diameter plastic-foam ball in half for eyeballs. Use paint markers to color the irises, pupils, and bloodshot lines. Glue the eyeballs to the cup rim, and then turn the cup upside down until the glue is dry. Add the nose and mouth (and a guest's name on the back if desired) with a black paint marker.



Cool Ghouls

Candy, cookies, and icing plus a penchant for fun are the secrets to making these cupcakes into silly treats.

- LITTLE WITCH** Mini candy-coated chocolates, dyed coconut, chocolate cookie, sugar cone, purchased green icing
- SPOOKED** White candy-coated almonds, puffed cocoa cereal
- PEEK A BOO** Sliced marshmallow, small mint candies, candy-coated chocolate piece, sugar
- UNDER WRAPS** Candy-coated chocolate pieces, purchased green icing
- GHOULISH DELIGHT** White fondant cookie-cutter cutout
- WHOOO'S THERE?** Oval chocolate cookie, cashew nut, fruit-flavor candy circles, shaved coconut, pretzel rods
- GOOGLY-EYED** Dark chocolate-covered almonds
- BATTY BITE** Halved chocolate wafer cookie, candy-coated chocolate piece, sprinkles, purchased green icing
- GREEN GOBLIN** Sour gummy candy rings and straws, white and green jelly beans, mini chocolate chips



**This will be
a Christmas to
remember.**

Here's where
I'm getting my
inspiration ...

CHRISTMAS IDEAS®

New twists on traditions with
tips and techniques to make your
holiday home unforgettable!

**Available on newsstands
September 22nd**

A young girl with long brown hair is smiling and holding a silver platter high above her head with both hands. The platter is filled with several cupcakes decorated with white frosting, pink hearts, and pink flowers. She is wearing a pink chef's hat with heart patterns and a pink apron with heart patterns and a white ruffled trim. She is also wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt. The background shows a kitchen sink and shelves with yellow dishes.

sweet-as-can-be cupcake chef

Sugar and spice and everything nice—that's what this costume is made of. To create this sweet costume, stamp hearts on a child's apron and chef's hat with acrylic paint, and pipe on details with puff paint. Sweeten the look with ruffle trim glued to the apron and hatband. Then whip up a batch of tulle cupcakes decorated with crafts-foam frosting, and serve them up on a foil platter.

when I grow UP!

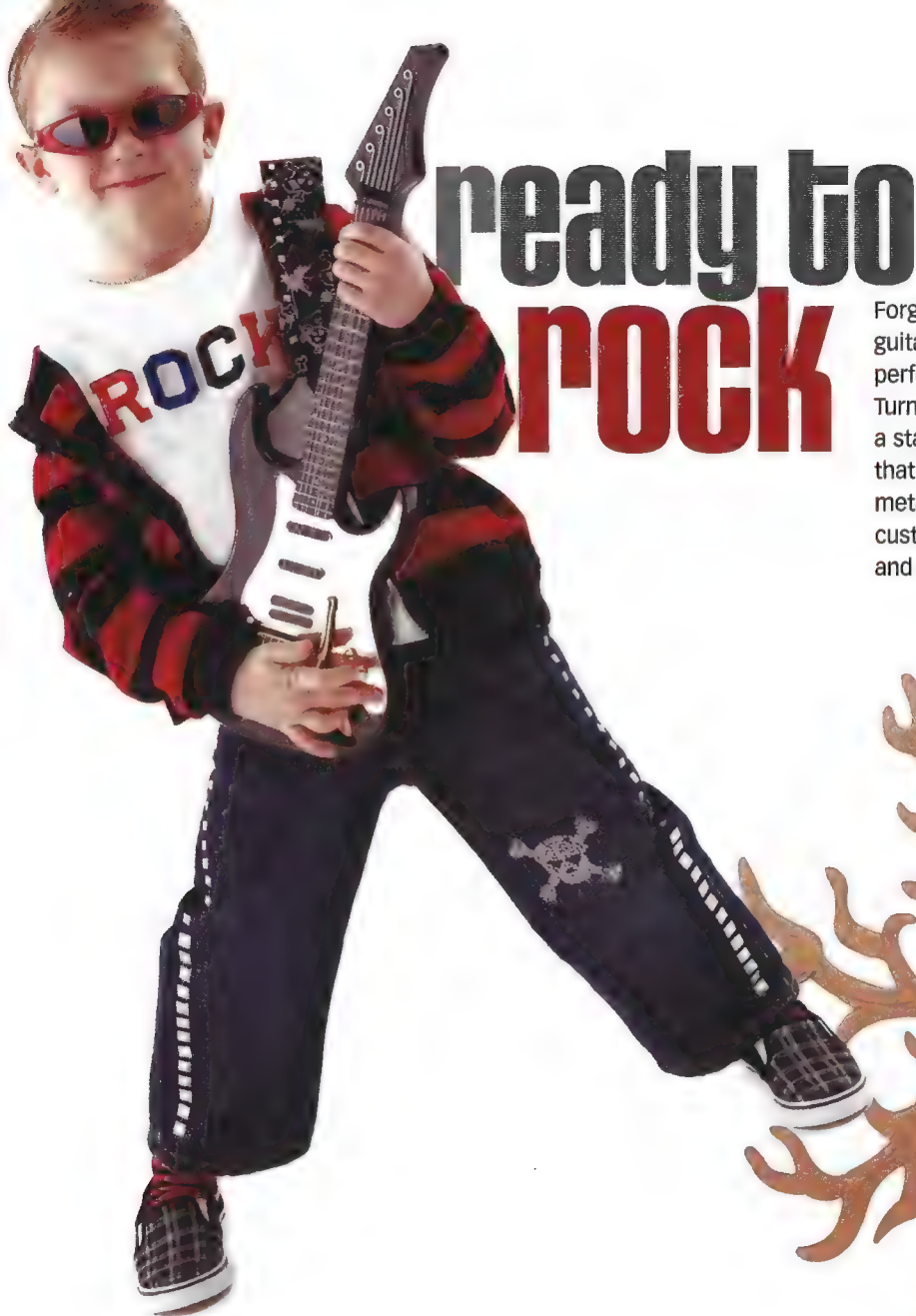
Ask kids what they want to be when they grow up, and you're certain to hear lofty plans. Help them fulfill their dreams with these easy-to-make Halloween costumes.

DESIGNED BY HEIDI BOYD WRITTEN BY HEIDI PALKOVIC
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE

rembrandt in training

Your busy little guys or gals may be more into finger paint creations, but that doesn't mean they can't play the part of a renown artist this Halloween. The key to this pièce de résistance is an artist's smock created by dripping and splattering colorful paint onto an oversize adult shirt. Just slip the smock over any colorful shirt, add a beret, and complete the artsy look with an artist's brush.





ready to rock

Forget auditions and touring—your little guitar hero will be ready for a showstopping performance at any Halloween gig in this costume. Turn basic blue jeans and a plain white T-shirt into a stage-ready wardrobe with iron-on additions that include a rhinestone skull-and-crossbones, metal studs, and colorful block lettering. Attach a custom-made studded cover to a toy guitar strap, and let the jamming begin!

fairy-tale favorite

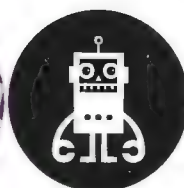
If scary or trendy costumes aren't the thing with your little one, this beloved character from fairy-tale fame might be just right for this year's costume. Little Red Riding Hood jumps off the page and into real life with the help of a pretty store-bought black-and-white dress that's topped with a hooded red cape made from red felt and black trim. A stuffed-toy wolf nestled into a napkin-lined basket adds to the fun.





take-a-bow ballerina

This recital-inspired ballerina ensemble begins with a leotard, tutu, headband, and basic tights—all you have to do is embellish with beads and pearls, silk flowers, and tulle. Give your ballerina a realistic “en pointe” touch by dressing up sparkly flats with long ribbons for crisscrossing laces. To punch up the twirly effect, make wristbands using elastic and ribbons, and then watch your little one command a repeat performance!



Cupcake Chef

MATERIALS

Pink youth apron and chef's hat
Acrylic paint: white and pink
Heart-shape crafts-foam stamps,
one large and one small
Puff paints: white and pink
1¼ yards of white ruffle trim
Fabrics glue
Silver foil tray
Large round paper doily
Glue gun and hotmelt adhesive
Five white chenille stems
Silver foil cupcake liners
¼ yard of fuchsia tulle
Crafts-foam sheet: white
Crafts-foam stickers: hearts
and flowers
Five sparkly pom-poms

INSTRUCTIONS

Brush white acrylic paint onto the small heart stamp, and press it onto the apron bib and onto each pocket along the bottom edge of the apron. Brush pink acrylic paint onto the large heart stamp, and press it over the stamped white hearts. Outline the stamped pink hearts with pink puff paint. Cut lengths of white ruffle trim to fit the bib and pocket edges. Use fabrics glue to attach the trim to the apron.

Brush pink paint onto the small heart stamp, and press it onto the hatband. Repeat stamping across the hatband. Outline the stamped hearts with pink puff paint. Use white puff paint to create dotted hearts between the stamped hearts.

Hot-glue the doily to the tray. Poke a hole in the center of the tray. Insert a chenille stem, extending 1 inch of the stem through the back of the tray. Twist the short chenille stem end into a spiral, and secure it to the back of the tray with hotmelt adhesive. Repeat the process by poking four more holes around the tray and inserting chenille stems.

Poke a hole in the center of five foil cupcake liners, and slide each liner

onto a chenille stem. Cut five 10-inch squares from tulle. Tie a piece around each chenille stem, tucking it into the cupcake liners. Use the patterns, *opposite*, to cut five cupcake tops from the crafts foam. Poke a hole in the center of each and slide onto a chenille stem. Trim the chenille stems, and fold the ends over on each cupcake top. Referring to the patterns, "frost" the tops with heart- and flower-shape foam stickers and pink and white puff paint. Hot-glue a pom-pom to the top of each cupcake.

Artist

MATERIALS

White button-front adult-size shirt
Acrylic paints: yellow, pink, orange,
red, blue, green, black, and white
Toothbrush
Regular paintbrush
White plastic painter's palette

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut off the sleeves at the desired length. Stuff the shirt with crumpled paper. Lay it on a protected work surface, and using the toothbrush, paintbrush, and different-color paints, randomly drip and splatter paint over the shirt. Squeeze a different paint color into each section of the palette. Let the palette dry thoroughly.

Rock Star

MATERIALS

Jeans
Iron-on rhinestone skull-and-crossbones patch
Iron-on silver square studs
(available in strips)
Fabrics glue
¼ yard of skull-and-crossbones printed fabric
Adhesive hook-and-loop tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Following the manufacturer's instructions, apply the skull-and-crossbones patch and studs to each pant

leg. Cut the fabric in half lengthwise. On the right side of the fabric, apply a strip of iron-on studs lengthwise through the center. With right sides out, fold the fabric to meet in the center, and adhere the edges with fabrics glue. Fold the piece in half with right sides out, and apply adhesive hook-and-loop tape to the inner edges.

Little Red Riding Hood

MATERIALS

1 yard of red felt
3 yards of black flower trim
Glue gun and hotmelt adhesive
Two black pom-poms
Lace trim
Checked dish towel or cloth napkin

INSTRUCTIONS

Fold the felt in half and, using the enlarged pattern, *opposite*, cut out the cape, adjusting the size if needed. Pin the cape pieces together, and sew the layers together. Turn the cape right side out.

Stitch the flower trim to the outside edges and to the inside edge of the hood, leaving long tails along the hood edges to tie into a bow. Hot-glue a pom-pom to each trim end.

For the basket: Cut the lace trim to fit around the basket edge, and hot-glue it in place. Line the basket with a checked dish towel or cloth napkin, and place a stuffed-toy wolf inside.

Ballerina

MATERIALS

Lavender leotard
Silk flowers (pulled from silk flower stems)
Small round pearl beads
⅛ yard of lavender tulle
Satin-covered plain headband
Five large lavender pearl beads
24-gauge crafts wire
Assorted iridescent clear plastic beads
Clear rhinestones
Glue gun and hotmelt adhesive
Lingerie elastic
Assorted ⅛- to ½-inch wide silk ribbons: lavender, white, and purple
1⅓ yards of ½-inch wide lavender silk ribbon

INSTRUCTIONS

Use needle and thread to hand-stitch nine silk flowers and nine pearl-bead centers to the neckline of the leotard.

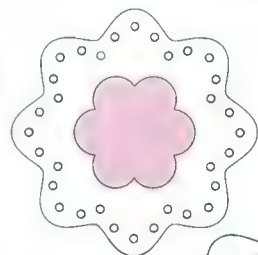
Fold the tulle to fit the center portion of the headband, and place it over the top. String five large lavender pearl beads onto a 12-inch length of wire. Wrap one end of the wire around one end of the headband, catching the tulle inside the wire wraps. Continue wrapping, securing the rest of the tulle in place and positioning a single leaf on the band with each wrap. Twist the end of the wire to the opposite end of the headband.

Cut a 16-inch length of wire, and wrap one end around the side of the first pearl. String a sequence of nine iridescent beads onto the wire. Pass the wire under the next pearl; continue with nine more beads, passing the wire

under the next wrapped pearl each time. Wrap the wire end around one side of the last wired pearl. Shape the nine bead sections into points to make a tiara. Hot-glue silk flowers to the headband edge to cover the wire wraps. Hot-glue rhinestones to the flower centers.

Wrap the elastic around your child's wrist, and cut it at a comfortable length. Cut five ribbons $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet long. Hand-stitch the elastic ends together to form a loop. Thread the ribbon ends onto the needle, and add a silk flower and bead before pushing the needle back down through the flower to secure all the pieces to the elastic. Repeat for the second wristband.

For the slippers, cut two 4-foot long pieces from the wide silk ribbon. Hot-glue one ribbon across the middle, inside each slipper.



**Cupcake Chef
Cupcake Tops**

Enlarge patterns to
your desired size



Red Riding Hood Cape

Cut 2

100% Cotton Fabric
1/2" Seam Allowance



HALLOWEEN #3 BREWING

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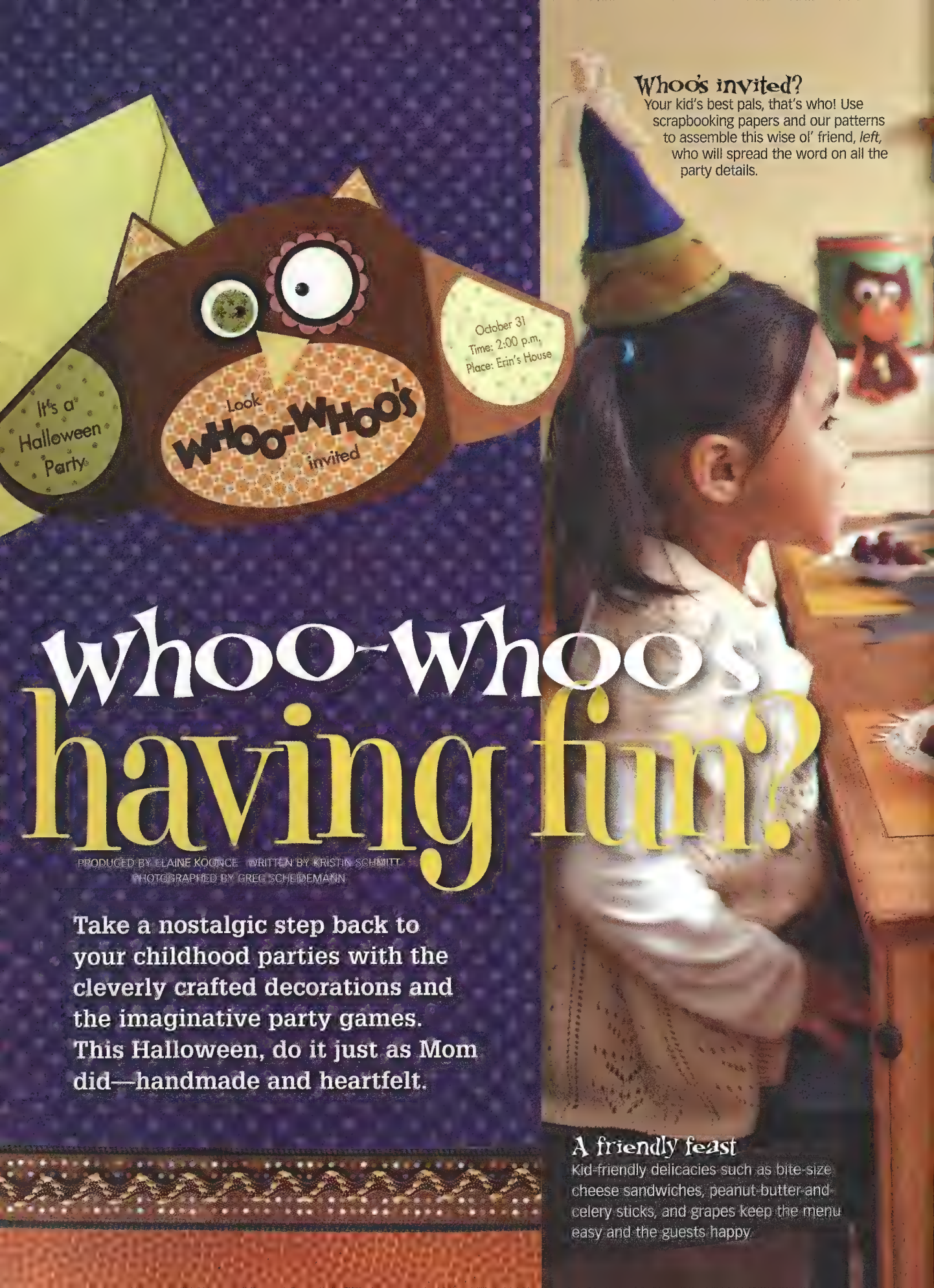


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Who's invited?

Your kid's best pals, that's who! Use scrapbooking papers and our patterns to assemble this wise ol' friend, left, who will spread the word on all the party details.



who-o-who-o's having fun?

PRODUCED BY ELAINE KOONCE WRITTEN BY KRISTIN SCHMITT
PHOTOGRAPHED BY GREG SCHEIDEMANN

Take a nostalgic step back to your childhood parties with the cleverly crafted decorations and the imaginative party games. This Halloween, do it just as Mom did—handmade and heartfelt.

A friendly feast

Kid-friendly delicacies such as bite-size cheese sandwiches, peanut-butter-and-celery sticks, and grapes keep the menu easy and the guests happy.



Having FUN

Game plan

For a simple game of beanbag toss, see who can make the most catches into paper-and-felt-decorated paint cans.



Perched to play

Lined up as if they're keeping a watchful eye from a high-above tree branch, the party's woodsy friends, *below*, count points for little game players by the number on their tails.



Homemade doesn't mean ho-hum. Just follow our stylish party plan.

Craft the outstanding invitations like a talented scrapbooking pro using our patterns and how-to. Set a playful table setting chock-full of whimsical paper-crafted characters safely sandwiched within plastic party goods.

Put a party-theme twist on a game of beanbag toss with paint cans garbed in felt-and-paper likenesses of the party's owl friend. Make it a breeze for little hands to customize their own jack-o'-lanterns à la Mr. Potato Head with premade facial features and hats that easily stick in place with hook-and-loop tape.

Skip the fancy treats. Simple kid favorites packed in a take-home tote happily keep famished partygoers energized. Save your own energy for dolling up classic desserts—cutout pumpkin cookies and caramel apples—with silly icing faces.



Toss 'em around

Petite pyramid-shape beanbags fit easily into pint-size hands. Stitch them from soft corduroy and felt fabrics, and embellish them with star and moon felt appliques.





Mr. Pumpkin Head

For a crowd-pleasing party craft, prepare the parts for these Mr. Potato Head-style pumpkins, *opposite*, before the party.

Paint a variety of artificial pumpkins, and outfit them with self-stick fabric dots where facial features should go. Premake funny hats, eyes, noses, and mouths from felts, trims, and papers. Then let the kids choose from the bunch as their imaginations run freely.



1 Have party guests pick their favorite facial features.

2 Let them arrange and rearrange their funny faces.

3 Let them crown their pumpkins with festive hats.

Center of attention

A variety of paper-crafted Halloween tags on painted crafts sticks parade in small vases filled with varieties of popcorn for an easy table centerpiece, *below*.





Snack break

Rejuvenate little ghosts and goblins between party activities with helpful finger foods packed in a personalized party favor, *left*. Embellish the lunch box-style paperboard containers with decorative papers and trims.

Grubs on

Skip past the party store's usual holiday paper goods this year, and pick up a stash of simple clear plastic plates and cups instead. Then gather colorful patterned scrapbooking papers to transform them into whimsical tablesetting decorations, *below*.

Rev up your creative juices to personalize your Halloween social with hand-crafted decor.



Fancy finish

Always a favorite autumn treat, these caramel apples, *right*, sport friendly jack-o'-lantern features made from fondant. Fix the candied delights on painted crafts sticks and wrap them in clear treat bags tied with ribbon to send home as parting treats.

Fond farewell

Bid guests farewell with their personalized totes of take-home treats and memories of good times shared with friends, *below*.



Invitation

MATERIALS

Double-sided brown card stock
Assorted scrapbooking papers
Circle paper punches or circle stencils
Green ink pad and sponge
Two black gems
Crafts glue
Pop dots
Square purchased envelopes

INSTRUCTIONS

Using the pattern, cut one owl body from brown card stock; fold the wings so they close over front of the owl with patterned side of paper facing out.

To write invitation by hand, cut out belly and wing shapes first, then space the words to fit. On patterned paper, print "Look Whoo-Whoo's invited" Trace the owl's belly around the words and cut out; glue to the owl. From the same paper, cut two ears; glue in place.

On coordinating patterned paper, print "It's a Halloween Party" and the party details (date, time, location); trace

a wing around each set of words and cut out; glue to inside of owl's wings.

From assorted papers, punch or cut a variety of eye pieces. To tone down stark edges of white paper, dip sponge in green ink, dab several times on scrap paper, and blot edges of white pieces.

Layer eye pieces as desired, adding black gems for pupils, and glue layers together. Adhere eyes to owl using pop dots to give them dimension.

From yellow paper, cut triangle shape for beak and lightly ink the edges. Glue in place, overlapping the belly.



Bat Plate

MATERIALS

Black card stock in assorted patterns
Assorted scrapbooking papers
Circle paper punches or circle stencils
Green ink pad and sponge
Crafts glue
Two 8½-inch clear plastic plates
Metal scrapbooking pick tool and self-healing cutting mat
Small hammer
10 small brass brads

INSTRUCTIONS

Using the pattern, cut one bat body and two bat wings from black patterned card stock.

From scrapbooking papers, cut a mouth and two teeth. Punch or cut a variety of circles to make layered eyes. Dip a sponge in green ink, dab several times on scrap paper, and blot the edges of cutouts formed with light-color

papers. Assemble and glue together the face of the bat as desired.

Sandwich the bat and wings between two plastic plates, letting the wings bend along the plate edges; turn plates facedown on cutting mat. Using the pick tool and hammer, lightly tap five holes through the plate rim at the top center. Push brads through the holes from the plate front and secure. Repeat to position the five remaining brads around the bottom of the plate rim.





Table Runner

MATERIALS

Fabric: reddish-orange corduroy, green corduroy, light green cotton
Decorative fabric ribbon
Fabrics glue
Two owl decorations (see instructions for Beanbag Toss Game)
Felt: yellow, brown, and purple
Letter stencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Add ½-inch seam allowances to each measurement.

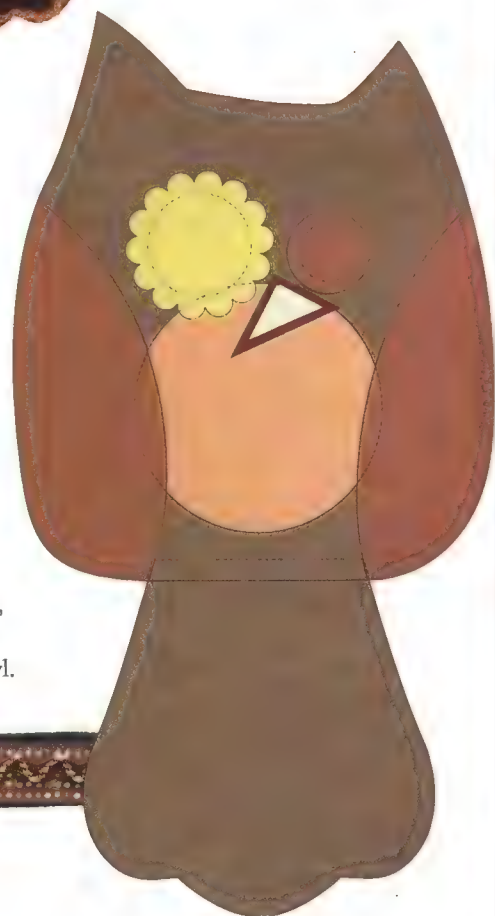
From the reddish-orange corduroy fabric, cut a piece the desired width of finished table runner and 2 to 3 inches longer than length of tabletop, adding seam allowances and positioning corduroy wale to run across width of table runner. From green corduroy fabric, cut two pieces the desired width of finished table runner and desired length to hang down from ends of tabletop, adding seam allowances and positioning corduroy wale to run vertically down from tabletop. Lay reddish-orange piece flat with right side up; position each green piece on top of ends of reddish-orange piece with right sides facing and edges aligned. Pin in place, then stitch fabrics together on each outer end with seam allowance. Open fabrics to reveal top of table runner; press seam allowances open on wrong side.

Cut two pieces of ribbon as long as width of table runner, including seam allowances. Stitch each ribbon piece over each seam where corduroy fabrics meet on right side of fabric.

From light green cotton fabric, cut piece desired width and length of finished table runner, adding seam allowances. With right sides facing, stitch light green backing and corduroy top together, leaving opening to turn runner right side out; hand-stitch opening closed.

Use fabrics glue to secure felt owl (see instructions for “Beanbag Toss Game”) to each end of the table runner, aligning the bottom of the owl body with the edge of the runner to let tail hang over.

From yellow, brown, and purple felt, cut the letters for “Having Fun” and glue to each end of runner around owl.



Moon and Stars Place Mat

MATERIALS

12×12-inch scrapbooking paper in desired color and pattern
Scrapbooking paper scraps in coordinating colors
Moon- and star-shape paper punches or stencils (we used a Cricut machine)
Crafts glue

INSTRUCTIONS

Use a 12×12-inch piece of scrapbooking paper as the base for the place mat.

From desired scrapbooking paper scraps, cut several moons and stars in a variety of sizes. Glue pairs of moons and stars together; glue to place mat paper in diagonally opposite corners.

Owl Cup

MATERIALS

Assorted scrapbooking papers (include two browns)
Circle paper punches or circle stencils
Glue dots
Two clear plastic cups

INSTRUCTIONS

Referring to the photo for the shapes, cut one owl shape from brown patterned paper. From lighter brown patterned paper, cut a circle for the owl's belly. From other colored papers, cut a variety of small circles for eyes and two irregular triangles of different sizes for the beak. Cut six black circles for eye pupils and owl feet. From black paper, cut the branch shape. Layer the pieces to assemble the owl and adhere

with glue dots. Then adhere it to the cup. From assorted paper, cut two oval shapes; layer offset as shown, and glue together. Print child's name on paper; cut around it to form an irregular rectangle. From coordinating paper, cut a second, larger rectangle. Layer and glue rectangles, then glue on top of ovals. Glue the name tag to the cup opposite the owl. Slide the decorated cup into a second cup to sandwich the decorations in between.



Halloween Sticks Centerpiece

MATERIALS

1 package unfinished rounded crafts sticks
Acrylic paints in assorted colors
Assorted card stock
Paper crafts punches or stencils
Crafts glue, pop dots, jewelry rings, and other desired accessories
3-D stickers, ribbon, and other crafts and scrapbooking supplies
Glitter

INSTRUCTIONS

Paint each stick a desired color; let dry. Paint stripes of another color on

each stick; let dry. For each stick, cut three irregular squares from card stock, trimming each in a different size. Layer and glue together the top two squares.

Referring to the photos, cut Halloween shapes from card stock using crafts punches or stencils. Embellish the shapes with cutouts, glitter, stickers, and the like. Refer to photos throughout this story for ideas. Glue shapes and embellishments to layered squares.

Glue the largest square piece behind the decorated squares, sandwiching the painted stick between the layers.





Mr. Pumpkin Head

MATERIALS

Small artificial pumpkins (we used Funkins)
Assorted acrylic paints
Assorted solid and textured wool felts, card stock, and decorative fabric ribbons and trims
Paper punches or stencils, in a variety of shapes
Small black gems
Small black pom-poms
Glue gun and hotmelt adhesives
Fabrics glue
Fabric dots

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Make multiple pumpkins, facial features, and hats. Then let your guests choose from all the parts to assemble their pumpkins.

Paint the artificial pumpkins in desired colors; let dry.

From felt and card stock, cut a variety of eyes, noses, and mouths for pumpkin faces. Add gems or pom-poms for eye pupils. Use fabrics glue to adhere layers together.

Hot-glue fabric dots to the backs of the facial features and then to the pumpkins.

To make a cone-shape hat, trace a circle (about the size of a salad plate) on felt. Cut out the circle and cut in half, then curl one half into a cone shape and secure the edges with fabrics glue.



Snack Break Lunch Box

MATERIALS

Round paperboard lunch box with hinged lid and handle (available from online scrapbooking retailers)
Assorted scrapbooking papers
Decorative ribbons
Paper crafts punches or stencils
Mod Podge decoupage medium
Crafts glue

INSTRUCTIONS

To decorate box:

Measure height of the box side. From scrapbooking paper, cut two strips as wide as side height of box and long enough to wrap around box sides end to end. Glue paper strips around outside of box, fitting them around the handle.

Trace the top and bottom of the box on the backs of scrapbooking papers; cut out. Glue bottom paper to bottom of

box. Cut two strips of paper long enough to fit across box lid; cut one 2 inches wide and one 1½ inches wide. Layer and glue the paper strips together, then glue to box lid paper. Trim the paper strip ends to match the box lid curve. From coordinating paper, cut two star shapes (or other shaped), one larger than other, and an initial for each party guest. Layer and glue them together, then glue to box lid paper. Glue finished paper to box lid. Glue decorative ribbon around box lid side.

To make name tag:

From coordinating paper, cut two ovals; layer and glue them together as shown. Cut two stars, one slightly larger than the other; layer and glue together, then glue along one edge of ovals. Print the child's name on light-color paper; cut out in an irregular rectangle. From coordinating paper, cut a second, larger irregular rectangle. Layer the rectangles and glue together; glue to ovals.

Punch a hole in top of tag and tie to lunch box handle with ribbon.



Beanbag Toss Game

MATERIALS FOR CANS

Clean, empty 1-gallon cans (available at crafts stores)

Assorted scrapbooking papers, fabric ribbons and trims, and solid and textured wool felt (brown and yellow)

Mod Podge decoupage medium

Glue gun and hotmelt adhesives

Fabrics glue

1-inch circle paper punch

Circle paper punches or circle stencils

Wiggle eyes in two sizes

Number stencils (we used a

Cricut machine)

MATERIALS FOR BEANBAGS

Heavy fabrics, such as wool and corduroy, in assorted autumnal colors

Plastic pellet stuffing

Solid and textured wool felts in assorted autumnal colors

Black embroidery floss

INSTRUCTIONS

To make one can:

Note: To attach various materials to the can, use decoupage medium to adhere paper, use a glue gun and hotmelt adhesive to secure ribbon, and use fabrics glue to attach fabric pieces.

From scrapbooking papers, cut two pieces to wrap around the can. Punch or cut a half-circle in both short edges of the paper strips. (Measure first to indicate the location of the handle.) Glue papers around the can with the short sides meeting and half-circles lining up where the handle attaches to paint can. Glue fabric ribbons and trims around top and bottom of can.

From brown felt, cut an owl body and tail. Glue ribbon along the outline of tail; attach tail under the edge of body.

From yellow felt, cut two wings; from orange paper, cut one belly. From felt and paper, cut or punch eye pieces. Assemble the owl, and glue a different-size wiggle eye on each eye. From yellow and white felt, cut two irregular triangles for the beak; glue together.

Glue the wings and belly to the owl body first, then layer on the eyes and beak.

Cut a number from two colors of paper, making one larger than the other. Glue and attach to the owl tail.

To make one beanbag:

From a heavy fabric, cut four triangles with 4½-inch sides. With right sides together and using ¼-inch seam allowances, sew two triangles together along one edge; sew a third triangle to

the first two along two sides to form a pyramid with an open bottom.

With right sides still together, align sides of last triangle to bottom edges of pyramid and sew, leaving a small opening. Turn pyramid inside out, stuff until firm, then hand-stitch opening closed.

From felts, cut four moon and star shapes in various sizes. Using one strand of embroidery floss and straight stitches, attach a moon or star shape to each side of the beanbag.





This home works its black (and white) magic with spirited touches that blend in with its everyday decor.

hocus focused

No one can tell Simone Lagies that Halloween is just for kids. Near the first of October, she shrouds her furniture with spider webbing and sticks a fork in fake eyeballs piled under a glass cloche. "Halloween is a time when you can loosen up a bit," says the San Diego artist and decorator.

Simone began casting her spells a few years ago after seeing a pumpkin painted white. "My aversion to the color orange really hindered my Halloween decorating. Then I started playing around with black and white spray paint."

Her home's usual offbeat decor handles her touches with ease. "I incorporate things I live with every day, like old books, seashells, and glass cloches, and add simple twists I haven't seen a zillion times," Simone says. "You kind of have to discover things in my house. Believe it or not, I like to keep my decorations subtle so they look like they belong."



Bewitched

"I like my Halloween decorating to be elegant yet simple and casual," says Simone, *above*, shown here with her black cat Lucretia.

Reckless Abandon

A sideboard looks eerily deserted when it's crisscrossed with spider webbing and a blackbird perched on top, *opposite*.

PRODUCED BY ANDREA CAUGHEY WRITTEN BY JODY GARLOCK
PHOTOGRAPHED BY DOMINIQUE VORILLON

Tempting Potion

A decanter and textured drinking glasses take on a spectral aura when filled with piña-colada-flavor juice and placed on a tarnished silver tray.



Haunting Layers

Books topped with a large seashell and a glass cloche with a blackbird inside anchor one end of the mantel. "I have a huge thing for vignettes," Simone says. "They're fun to do and easy to change."



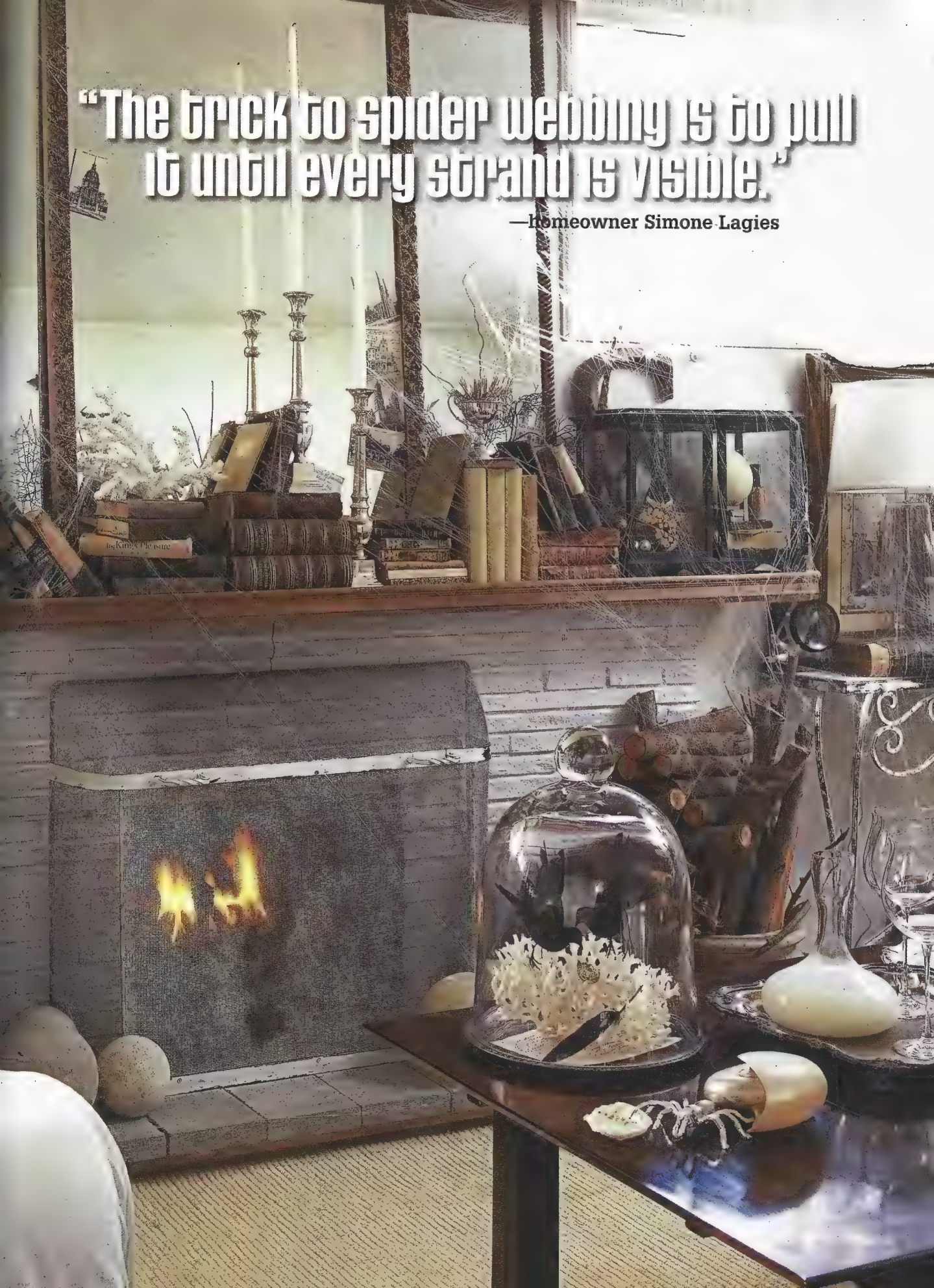
Fireside Fright

Simone's less than orderly mantel display includes haphazardly stacked books and towering candles that conjure up stormy nights when the electricity has gone out. For dramatic effect, she strings spider webbing from floor to ceiling, not just on the mantel.



"The trick to spider webbing is to pull it until every strand is visible."

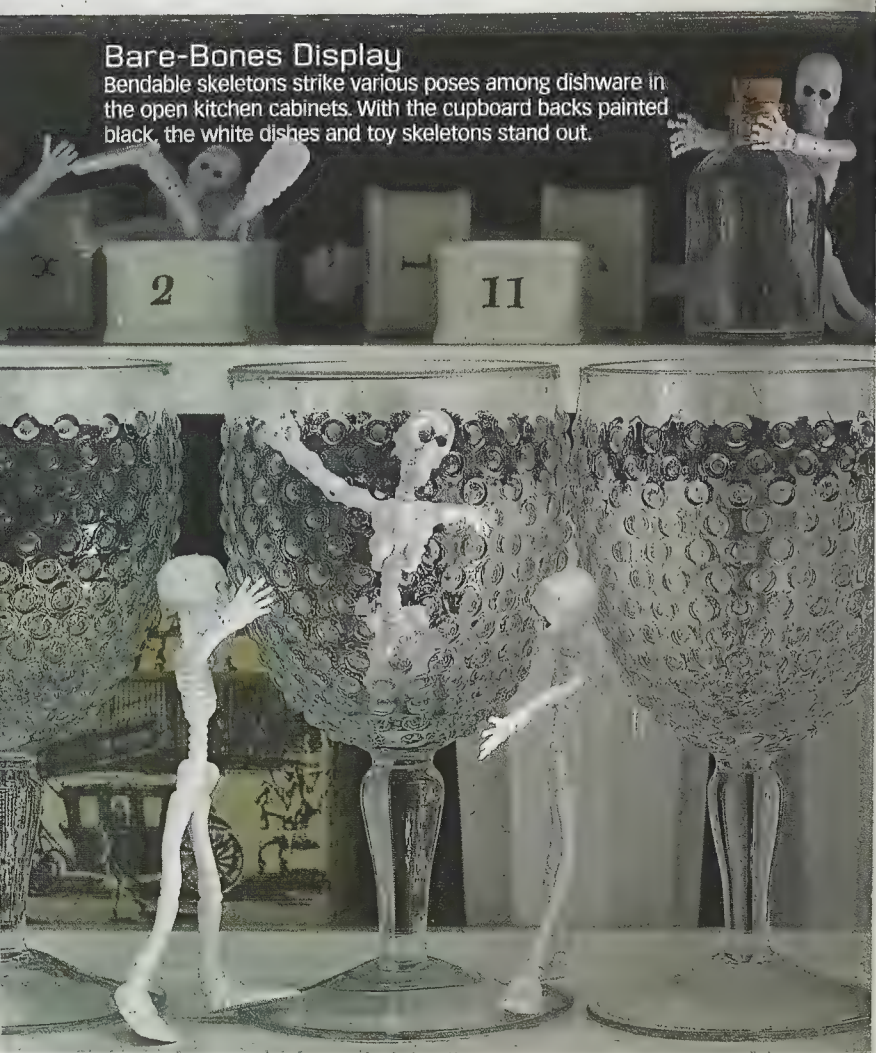
—homeowner Simone Lagies





Bare-Bones Display

Bendable skeletons strike various poses among dishware in the open kitchen cabinets. With the cupboard backs painted black, the white dishes and toy skeletons stand out.



Scary Talk
Flash cards propped in metal flower frogs and encased in footed apothecary jars send a scary message.



Festive Towels
Iron-on transfers imprint dish towels with the Halloween spirit. To get the look, photocopy designs from a copyright-free clip-art book onto transfer paper, and iron the images onto plain towels.



**Simone
spray-paints
plastic-foam
apples and
pumpkins black
or white to
work with her
decorating
palette.**

Visual Feast
Glass cloches are among Simone's favorite decorating items. "They make little things seem special, and it's easy to change a display," she says. A fork in a pile of plastic party-favor eyeballs and a big spider are ghoulish specimens.





Continued from page 46

Vine Coasters

MATERIALS

Yellow poster board
Adhesive-backed black felt die-cut garlands (we used Voilà! Ribbons Swirly Bubbles, Swirly Bird, and Voilà! Swirls)

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut a 4½-inch-diameter circle from plastic for a template. Trace the template onto poster board one time for each coaster. Cut out the circles.

Place a garland over a circle, positioning it as desired. Cut out the sticker circle. Remove the backing, and press to the poster-board circle. Fill in with additional stickers as needed.

"Mossy" Cheese Balls

- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese
- 1 cup finely shredded Gouda cheese (4 ounces)
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 tablespoon milk
- ½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce for chicken
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onion (1)
- 2 tablespoons snipped fresh dill or 2 teaspoons dried dillweed
- Fresh herb such as dill, thyme, parsley, or chives
- Assorted crackers and/or flatbread

Note: For our party we doubled the recipe and then divided it into four different-size balls, the largest measuring 3½ inches in diameter. Each ball is rolled in a different fresh herb.

In a large bowl, let cream cheese, Gouda, and butter stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Add milk and Worcestershire sauce. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Stir in green onion and dill. Cover and chill for 4 to 24 hours. Before serving, shape cheese mixture into a large ball. Roll ball in desired herb and let stand 15 minutes. Serve with crackers or flatbread. Makes about 30 (1-tablespoon) servings.

Make-ahead directions: Prepare as above up to cover and chill. Shape cheese mixture into a ball; wrap in plastic wrap. Freeze for up to 1 month. To serve, thaw the cheese ball in the refrigerator overnight. Unwrap and roll in herbs. Let stand at room temperature for 15 minutes before serving.

Bones-and-Body-Parts Party Mix

- 4 cups tiny pretzels
- 2½ cups round toasted oat cereal
- 2½ cups bite-size rice or corn-square cereal
- 1 cup salted peanuts

- 1 cup round cereal (such as Kix)
- 2 cups white chocolate baking pieces (12 ounces)
- 1 tablespoon shortening

In a large bowl, combine first five ingredients; set aside. In a microwave-safe bowl, microwave white chocolate baking pieces and shortening on 100 percent power (high) for 1 to 2 minutes or until baking pieces are melted, stirring after every minute until smooth. (Chocolate should be warm to the touch but not hot.) Pour over cereal mixture; mix well.

Spread onto a waxed-paper-lined 15×10×1-inch baking pan. Cool completely; break apart. Store in an airtight container. Makes 3½ quarts.

Green Goo Dip

- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons Dijon-style mustard
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 cup cooking oil
- 4 to 5 anchovy fillets, drained and chopped (1 tablespoon)
- 1 cup loosely packed fresh parsley leaves
- ¼ cup loosely packed fresh tarragon leaves
- ¼ cup snipped fresh chives
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 4 ounces cream cheese, cubed and softened
- ¼ cup tarragon vinegar
- Salt
- Assorted vegetable dippers (such as Belgian endive, fresh pea pods, yellow and/or red sweet pepper strips, baby carrots, and/or blanched green beans)

In a large food processor or blender, combine egg product, lemon juice, mustard, and garlic; cover and process or blend until combined. With the processor or blender running, add oil in a thin, steady stream.

Add anchovies, parsley, tarragon, chives, and green onions; pulse until blended. Add the softened cream cheese and vinegar; pulse to incorporate. Season to taste with salt. Serve with vegetable dippers. Makes 2¼ cups.



SOURCES

Many of the materials and items used in this magazine are available at fabrics, crafts, and department stores. For more information about the products or to find a retailer near you, contact the manufacturers below.

Frightfully Fun

page 6

Halloween Haunting

Papier-mâché house: available at crafts stores.

Pumpkins on Parade

page 20

Stone paint: Krylon Make It Stone!
Charcoal Sand; krylon.com.

Gothic Gala

page 36

Runner ribbons: Midori; midoriribbon.com. Furniture: Better Homes and Gardens® Furniture; bhgfurniture.com. Stickers and oval frames: Fancy Felt Matties; primamarketinginc.com. Book-covers paper: PS Designs; paper-source.com. Frame chalkboard, Orleans plastic flatware: Kikkerland; kikkerland.com. Tree branch spray paint: Montana Cans in Pepperoni Mild (1130); shopheartstore.com. Slider favor boxes, ornaments: Pure Paper; pure-paper.com. Chocolate transfers: Fancy Flours; fancyflours.com.

Tricks & Treats Magic Show

page 48

Easel: IKEA; ikea.com/usa. Pumpkins: Funkins; funkins.com. Party accessories and props: available at party and theater supply stores.

Black & Bling

page 64

Rhinestones: Tulip; duncancrafts.com. Letter and star stickers: Making Memories;

makingmemories.com. Black jewels: Glitz; glitzitnow.com. Black crystal scrolls and crystal spider: Prima Marketing; primamarketinginc.com. Rub 'n Buff; AMACO (available at crafts stores). Skeleton: Skeleton Factory; skeleton-factory.com. Iron mice: Rivers' Edge Interiors, 804/722-0505. Black vinyl fabric: JoAnn Fabric and Crafts Stores; joann.com. Stencils: Stencil Kingdom; stencilkingdom.com. Beads, silver magnetic jewelry clasps: Darice; darice.com. Miniature tiara: available at WalMart or your local bridal shop. Spider pin and vintage hat: Kimberly Ann's, 246/248 N. Sycamore, Petersburg, VA 23803 (selection varies). Hat pin: available at Macy's; macys.com. Feathers: available at Michaels; michaels.com.

Ultimate Party Guide

page 80

Treat Bag: Die cuts: #655568 Phrase, Sweet Skull, and Top Hat: Sizzix; sizzix.com. Stinky Feet: Stamp N178—Stampendous; stampendous.com. Watercolor pencils and waterbrush—Staedtler; staedtler.com. Take Me To Your Party Stamps: L181, N176, SSC1032, and SSC1031; stickers; glitter: Stampendous; stampendous.com. Candy Corn Centerpiece: Foam paint—DecoArt; decoart.com; (available at crafts stores). Model Magic: Crayola; crayola.com (available at crafts stores).

When I Grow Up!

page 86

Chef apron and hat: Growing Cooks; growingcooks.com. Sugar Plum Fairy

Wool beret: The Village Hat Shop; villagehatshop.com. Guitar: Arsa Toys; arsatoys.com. Plush wolf toy: Stuffed Ark; stuffedark.com. Musical Skirt: Anna Bean; annabean.com. Leotard, slippers, and tights: Discount Dance Supply; discountdance.com.

Whoo-Whoo's Having Fun?

page 92

Pumpkins: Funkins; funkins.com. Paint cans: available at crafts stores. Patterned paper: Bo-Bunny Press; bobunny.com. Moon, star, and oval cutouts: Provo Craft; cricut.com. Fondant: Wilton; wilton.com. Lunch boxes: Creative Imaginations; creativeimagination.us.

Indoor/Outdoor Tangled Web Panel



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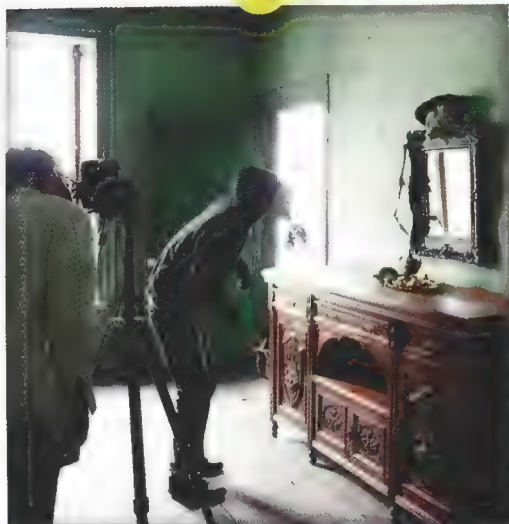


tricks & treats outtakes

Think the ideas in *Halloween Tricks & Treats* are fun? Then you'll think these candid, behind-the-scenes shots are a scream. As you can see, it takes an active imagination, plenty of eerie effects, and a few impromptu creative bursts to build our ghoulishly fun pages.



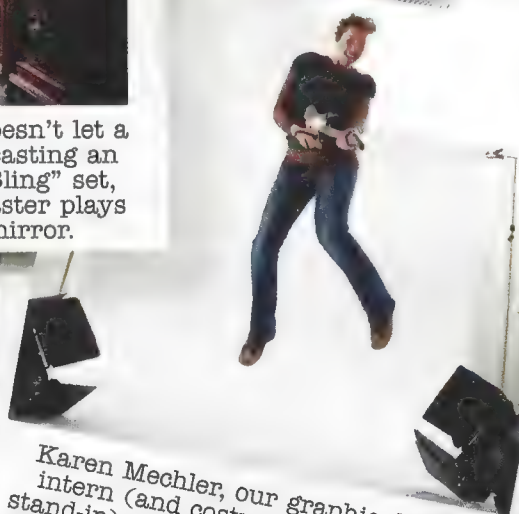
How many people does it take to adjust a costume? Design Director Shawn Roorda, Editor Ann Blevins, and designer Wendy Musgrave cover it all.



Photographer Kip Dawkins doesn't let a broken arm keep him from casting an eerie glow on the "Black & Bling" set, while photo assistant Jeff Master plays the perfect ghoul in the mirror.



Our little costume model, Megan, really got into her role as a chef and loved keeping her "cupcakes" warm in the oven!



Karen Mechler, our graphic design intern (and costume photography stand-in), couldn't resist the lure of a guitar—even though it was just a toy!

Bright Ideas

Halloween Treats & Eats

More
super scary
sweets
inside!

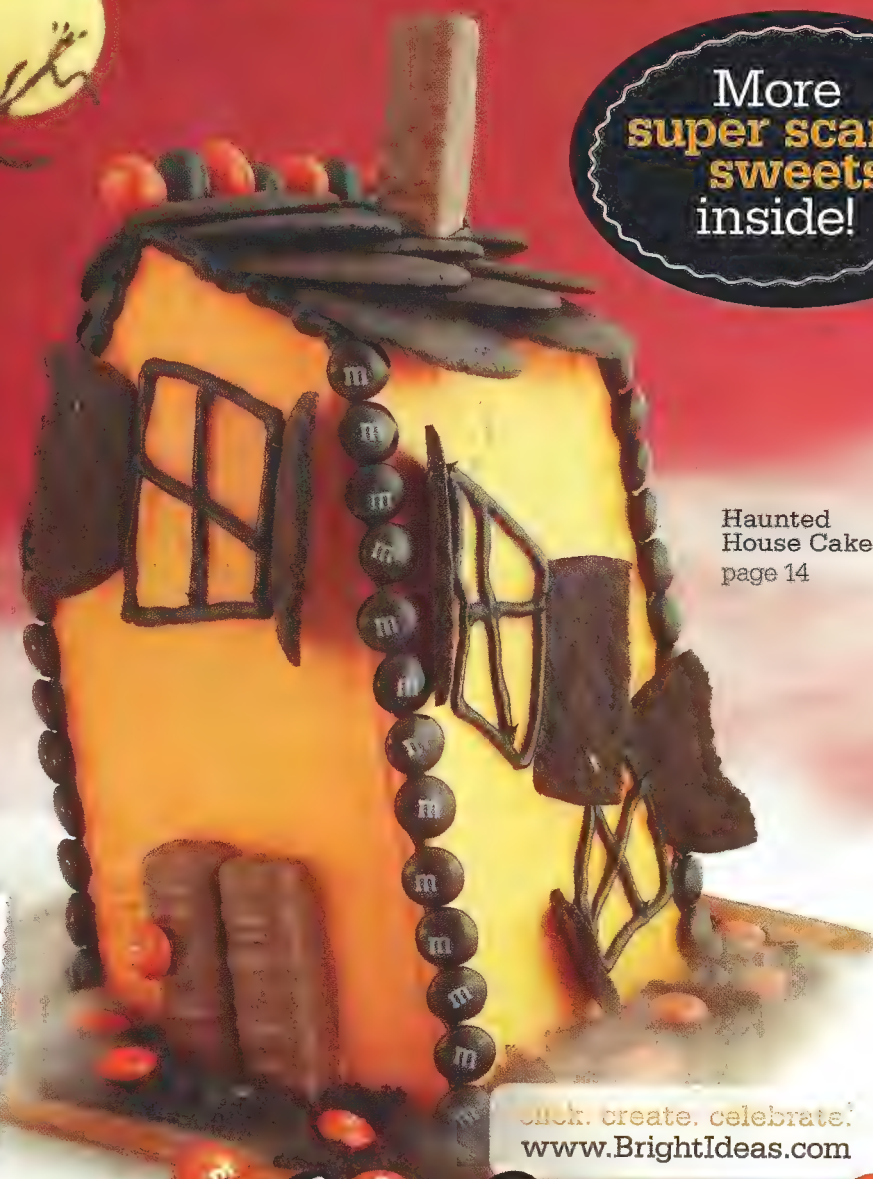
Haunted
House Cake
page 14



Midnight Moon Cake page 20



Creepy Creature Cookies page 22



click, create, celebrate.
www.BrightIdeas.com



Hi, Ingrid Hoffmann here to say, HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

To help you get into that spooky spirit, I've gathered my favorite Halloween recipes inspired by MARS chocolate candies...like M&M'S®. Here you'll find fun concoctions you can make with kids of all ages. Plus, decadent yet easy-to-make desserts to impress the adults.

This year, get your kids giggling with delight by decorating a cake together, making goodie bags for trick or treaters, or hosting a creepiest dessert contest!

And there's more where these came from, check out all of the recipes, crafts, and tips on BrightIdeas.com, where you'll find all kinds of activities for your little ghosts and goblins. So dig in and get started.

Happy Halloween everyone.

Ingrid



Spooktacular Recipes

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Crispy Pumpkin
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Mummies page 28





This October, prep for your Halloween spook-fest with a little help from BrightIdeas.com. Or, liven up the festivities with our delectable treats, and seasonal crafts. We're all about celebrating the small joys in life. From holidays to birthdays to any day, BrightIdeas.com has the recipes, crafts, and tips to make all occasions extraordinary.

Bring your ideas to light.

As a member of the BrightIdeas.com community, you can post your signature Halloween recipes, tell us about your favorite autumn activities, and share tips on how to liven up the party. You'll also receive BrightIdeas.com newsletters chock-full of recipes, craft ideas, and everyday pick-me-ups from members like you. Reach out to fellow members, rate their ideas, and send your favorites to friends and family. Visit us today at **www.BrightIdeas.com.**



Share your creations.

The only thing we love more than your recipes are great photos of your recipes. And by taking clear, eye-catching photographs, you can make your ideas look as yummy as they taste. Here are a few tips on how to showcase your creations like a pro:

- Use natural light whenever you can. Set your creation by the window or set up an outdoor "shoot."
- Try to photograph against a clean, white background.
- Prep your workspace by clearing dishes and cleaning countertops.
- Photograph the finished product as soon as it's done.
- Use dishes and cutlery to enhance food presentation. Garnish each plate for a little extra color or to demonstrate the size of the food.
- Take pictures on the same level or just above the item you're shooting to really showcase your creation.



Pumpkin Cupcakes Cake



Details:

Prep time: 20 min.

Baking time: 15-20 min.

Decoration time: 25 min.

Difficulty: Moderate

Yield: Makes 26 cupcakes



Ingredients:

1 box (18.25 oz.) Devil's food cake mix

4 eggs

1 cup buttermilk, reduced fat

1/2 cup canola oil

2 cans vanilla frosting

Orange food coloring

3 cups of M&M'S® Brand COOL
GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate

Candies Mix, separated by color
(2 cups orange, 1 cup black)*

3 12-cup cupcake pans

26 paper cupcake liners

1 18-inch cake circle,
firm cardboard or platter

Spatula

* Visit mymms.com to create a custom bag of orange and black M&M'S® Brand Milk Chocolate Candies for this recipe

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line the cupcake cups with the paper cupcake liners.
2. Beat the cake mix with the eggs, buttermilk and oil until blended. Divide the batter evenly between the prepared cupcake pans.
3. Bake for 15-20 minutes. Remove from the oven, transfer to a wire rack, and let cool completely.
4. Tint the vanilla frosting with the orange food coloring. Line the cupcakes snugly into a large pumpkin shape on the cake circle or platter. Follow this pattern—one row of 4 cupcakes, one row of 5, one row of 6, another of 5, another of 4. This leaves 2 cupcakes to be placed at the pumpkin's top for a stem (use the photo as a guide).
5. Spread orange frosting over the cupcakes, covering them completely so they look like one big cake. Use black M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix to outline the pumpkin, and to make the eyes, mouth and nose. Fill in any remaining area of the pumpkin with orange M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix.



Tip:

There are several ways to get similar results. You can frost each cupcake individually with orange icing. Place the cupcakes in a pumpkin shape and then use black M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix to create jack-o'-lantern facial features. You can randomly add orange M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix.

Finally, you can always use the top of any round layer cake as the pumpkin. Frost both the sides and top of the cake. Arrange black M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix to highlight the jack-o'-lantern facial features, and then arrange orange M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix randomly over the rest of the cake to complete the face.



Vampire Bites



Details:

Prep time: 20 min.

Baking time: 7-10 min.

Decoration time: 15 min.

Difficulty: Easy

Yield: Makes 24 bites



Ingredients:

1-1/2 cups flour

3/4 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1/2 cup butter, softened

1/2 cup packed brown sugar

1 egg

Red food coloring

1/4 cup red decorator's sugar

24 pieces MILKY WAY®
Brand Minis

1 tube vanilla frosting

Plastic wrap

Electric mixer

Large bowl

Medium bowl

2 cookie sheet pans

Directions:

1. Combine the flour, baking soda and cinnamon in a medium bowl; set aside.
2. Beat the butter and sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add the egg; beat well. Slowly add the flour mixture into the dough until blended. Add enough food coloring to tint the dough a bright red. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap, and refrigerate at least 2 hours.
3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line the cookie sheet pans with the parchment paper.
4. Using a rolling pin, roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to 1/4-inch thickness. Use a cookie cutter to cut out 24 lip shapes. Otherwise, you can form the dough into 24 balls and flatten each slightly to create free-form shaped lips using your hands to pinch and shape the dough. Transfer these to the prepared cookie sheets. Re-roll the scraps if necessary.
5. Sprinkle the cookies with red sugar. Bake 7-10 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove from the oven, and immediately press a MILKY WAY® Brand Minis into the center of each cookie. Cool completely. Use vanilla frosting to pipe fangs over the candy.

Tip:

If short on time, consider using store-bought refrigerated sugar cookie dough. Begin by kneading 2/3 cup of flour into the dough, then roll and cut according to the above directions. One roll of cookie dough makes approximately 18 cookies.



Slithering Sweets



Details:

Prep time: 20 min.

Baking time: 20-25 min.

Decoration time: 20 min.

Difficulty: Easy

Yield: Makes 2 caterpillars



Ingredients:

1 18.25-oz. box yellow cake mix

12 strands black or red licorice laces

1-1/2 cans (16-oz.) vanilla icing

Orange food coloring

3 cups M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S®

Milk Chocolate Candies Mix

2 SNICKERS® Brand FUN SIZE® Bars

2 12-cup cupcake pans

24 paper cupcake liners

Spatula

1 Large tray (or 12 x 16-inch piece strong cardboard)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line the cupcake pans with the paper cupcake liners.
2. Prepare the cake mix according to the package directions. Divide the batter evenly between the prepared cupcake pans.
3. Bake for 20-25 minutes. Remove from the oven, transfer to a wire rack, and let cool completely.
4. Cut the licorice laces into 2-inch pieces; set aside.
5. Tint the icing with the orange food coloring and frost all the cupcakes. Set two cupcakes on the side to use later for the creatures heads. Arrange M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix on top of remaining cupcakes. Press a 2-inch line of licorice laces on the opposite sides of every cupcake to form the creature's legs.
6. Now decorate the two reserved cupcakes. Make a big smile with a line of black M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix. Then cover the rest of the cupcake with orange M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix. Cut a SNICKERS® Brand FUN SIZE® Bar in half for each creature's eyes, and use 2 M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix for the pupils. Add two licorice laces for the antennae.
7. Then, using the photo as a guide, line the cupcakes into the creature shape on a large platter or piece of strong cardboard.



Eye Ball Cupcakes



Details:

Prep time: 20 min.

Baking time: 18-21 min.

Decoration time: 25 min.

Difficulty: Easy

Yield: Makes 24 cupcakes

Ingredients:

1 box (18.25 oz.) of your favorite cake mix

1 can (16 oz.) vanilla frosting

1 tube (6 oz.) blue decorating icing

1 tube (0.68 oz.) red decorating gel

24 each M&M'S® Brand Peanut Butter Chocolate Candies

24 paper cupcake liners

2 regular-size cupcake pans

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line the cupcake pans with the paper cupcake liners.
2. Prepare the cake mix according to the package instructions.
3. Bake for 18-21 minutes.
4. Remove pans from oven, transfer to a wire rack, and let cool completely.
5. To decorate: Frost the cupcake tops with the vanilla icing. Use the blue icing to pipe a 1-1/2 inch circle in the middle of each cupcake. Place one of the M&M'S® Brand Peanut Butter Chocolate Candies in the center of each blue circle.
6. Make squiggly lines using the red gel, starting at the blue circle and going to the edge of each cupcake.





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Night Owl Cookies



Details:

Prep time: 25 min.

Refrigeration time: 30 min.

Baking time: 11 min.

Decoration time: 15 min.

Difficulty: Moderate

Yield: Makes 20 owl cookies



Ingredients:

1 roll (18 oz.) refrigerated
sugar cookie dough

1/4 cup flour

1/3 cup cocoa powder

20 whole cashews

1/4 cup chocolate frosting

40 each M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S®
Milk Chocolate Candies Mix

2 cookie sheet pans

Plastic wrap paper

Resealable plastic bag

Directions:

1. Divide the sugar cookie dough in three pieces. Knead the flour into one piece of cookie dough until smooth, set aside. Combine the remaining two pieces of cookie dough and knead in the cocoa powder until smooth, set aside.
2. Roll the lighter colored cookie dough into a 1-inch round log about 10 inches long, and move it off to the side. Roll out the chocolate cookie dough on a lightly floured surface to a 10 x 4-inch rectangle. Place the light colored log of cookie dough on top of the chocolate rectangle. Wrap the chocolate cookie dough completely around the lighter colored log. Pinch edges to seal and roll the log smooth. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
3. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Cut the cookie log into 1/4-inch slices. Place 2 slices, side by side, on sheet pans. Press a cashew into cookie at the point the slices touch. Repeat with remaining cookie slices. Bake for approximately 8-11 minutes, or until cookies are just beginning to golden. Remove from the oven and transfer to a wire rack to cool.
4. Spoon the chocolate frosting into a resealable bag and snip a small corner from bag. Using the photograph as guide, pipe eyelashes and a dot to secure candies. Add the M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix for eyes.



Haunted House Cake



Details:

Prep time: 20 min.

Decoration time: 40 min.

Difficulty: Moderate

Yield: Makes 24 servings



Ingredients:

1-1/2 cans (16 oz.) vanilla frosting

Orange food coloring

2 frozen pound cakes (16 oz. each), thawed

24 chocolate wafer cookies

1 cup M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S®
Milk Chocolate Candies Mix

8 TWIX® Brand Caramel Cookie Bar Minis

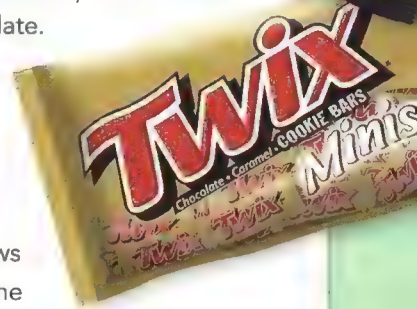
1 tube black decorating icing or gel

2 resealable plastic bags

Spatula

Directions:

1. Tint the frosting orange and set aside.
2. Use 1/2 cup of orange frosting to spread on the bottom of both pound cakes then press them together. Stand the cakes up so that they are vertical on a serving plate.
3. Create the pitch of the roof by trimming the top of one cake on a slight angle to give it the appearance of looking tipsy. Trim the other cake on a steeper angle. Completely cover the cake with remaining orange frosting. Break chocolate wafers in half and arrange, overlapping slightly, as the roof.
4. Using the photograph as a guide, pipe black decorating icing for the windows and other decorations. Use 3 TWIX® Brand Caramel Cookie Bar Minis as the door and chimney. Use broken wafer cookies for the shutters. Use M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix to outline the top of the roof and sides of the house.
5. Grind the remaining cookies along with remaining TWIX® Brand Caramel Cookie Bar Minis in the food processor. Spread this mixture around the base of the house as "dirt". Scatter M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix on the cookie "dirt".



Scarecrow Cupcakes



Details:

Prep time: 20 min.

Baking time: 18-21 min.

Decoration time: 30 min.

Difficulty: Moderate

Yield: Makes 24 cupcakes



Ingredients:

1 box (18.25 oz.) yellow cake mix

1 can (16 oz.) vanilla frosting

1 tube brown decorator's icing

12 graham crackers

24 TWIX® Brand Caramel Cookie Bar Minis

4 shredded wheat biscuits

1/2 cup M&M'S® Brand Peanut Butter Chocolate Candies

24 paper cupcake liners

2 regular size cupcake pans

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line the cupcake pans with the paper cupcake liners.
2. Prepare yellow cake mix according to the package instructions.
3. Transfer batter to prepared cupcake pans. Bake for 18-21 minutes. Remove from oven, transfer to a wire rack, and let cool completely.
4. Tint the vanilla frosting beige by blending it with a tablespoon of brown decorator's icing. Spread the beige frosting on top of a cupcake.
5. To decorate the cupcakes, use the photograph as a guide.

Hats: Place a graham cracker half at the top of each cupcake, and top with TWIX® Brand Caramel Cookie Bar Minis, to resemble the rim on the hat.

Hair & Neck: Arrange strands of shredded wheat under the hat and around the neck.

Face: Use M&M'S® Brand Peanut Butter Chocolate Candies for the eyes and nose. Create the mouth with the remaining brown decorator's frosting.

Tip:

Consider using cut licorice laces or shredded coconut instead of shredded wheat biscuits for the "hair".



Pumpkin Cookie Pops



Details:

Prep time: 10 min.

Baking time: 15 min.

Decoration time: 20 min.

Difficulty: Easy

Yield: Makes 30 pops



Ingredients:

1 roll (18 oz.) refrigerated sugar cookie dough

1 can (16 oz.) vanilla frosting

Orange and green food coloring

1 cup M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S®

Milk Chocolate Candies Mix

2 cookie sheets

30 colored craft sticks

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line the cookie sheets with parchment paper or aluminum foil.
 2. Cut approximately 30 1/4-inch slices of cookie dough. Place them on the cookie sheets. Slip a colored craft stick's 2-inch tip underneath each cookie. At the top of each cookie and directly on the opposite side of the craft stick make a small dimple in the dough.
 3. Bake the cookies for 15 minutes. Remove from oven, transfer to a wire rack, and let cool completely.
 4. Tint a quarter cup of frosting with the green food coloring. Transfer to a resealable plastic bag, snip a small corner, and set aside.
 5. Tint the remaining frosting with the orange food coloring. Spread it on the cookie tops. Use the green frosting to pipe the pumpkin stems around the dimples.
- Use M&M'S® Brand
COOL GHOUL'S®
Milk Chocolate
Candies Mix to
decorate the cookies
like jack-o'-lanterns.



Midnight Moon Cake



Details:

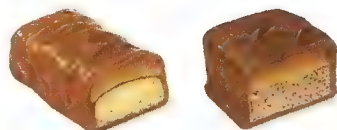
Prep time: 25 min.

Baking time: 50-55 min.

Decoration time: 10 min.

Difficulty: Easy

Yield: Makes 16 servings



Ingredients:

23 chocolate wafers (reserve
3 wafers for the bat wings)

3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons
sugar

2/3 cup chopped
TWIX® Caramel Cookie Bars

4 tablespoons butter, melted

2/3 cup chopped
MILKY WAY® Bars

1/4 cup milk

3 packages (8 oz. each)
nonfat cream cheese,
room temperature

4 large eggs

3 tablespoons unsweetened
cocoa powder

Yellow food coloring

3 pieces M&M'S® Brand
COOL GHOUL'S® Peanut Butter
Chocolate Candies Mix

1 8-inch round spring
form pan(s)



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Prepare the baking pan. Line the bottom of an 8-inch round spring form pan with heavy-duty foil. Grease the pan's sides and bottom. Wrap foil around the outside of the pan; set aside.
2. Process 20 chocolate wafers, 2 tablespoons of sugar and TWIX® Caramel Cookie Bars in a food processor fitted with a metal blade until finely ground. Add the melted butter and pulse until combined. Press the mixture evenly around the bottom of the prepared pan. Place that pan into a larger pan, such as a shallow roasting pan. Set aside.
3. Prepare the batter by heating MILKY WAY® Bars and milk in a microwave until melted, about 30 seconds to 1 minute. Stir until smooth. Set aside.
4. Using an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese and 3/4 cup sugar until smooth. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
5. Divide the batter between two mixing bowls. In one bowl, add cocoa powder and the chocolate mixture; stir until blended. Pour chocolate batter into the bottom of the prepared cake pan. Tint the remaining bowl of batter yellow. Gently spoon this yellow batter on top of the chocolate layer, covering it completely.
6. Before baking, create a water bath to keep the top of the cheesecake from badly cracking. Carefully pour boiling water into the roasting pan until it comes halfway up the side of the cheesecake pan. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes, or until the cheesecake sets with a 2-inch jiggly circle in the center. Turn off the oven and let the cheesecake remain inside for 30 minutes with the door ajar. At this time, remove the roasting pan to a wire rack, and allow the cheesecake to cool in the water bath until it lowers to room temperature. Remove the cheesecake pan from the water bath and loosely cover it with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours before cutting into wedges.
7. To unmold the cake, gently run a small knife around the pan's edges; loosen the hinge, and remove the cake. Place on a serving platter.
8. To make the bats, cut the 3 reserved cookie wafers in half. Either leave the edges jagged or, using a small cookie cutter, press out a scalloped edge. Arrange pairs of the cookie halves close together to resemble bat wings, pressing the inside tips slightly into the top of the cake. Place black M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Peanut Butter Chocolate Candies Mix in between for the bats' bodies.

Tip:

Get the kids involved. There are many steps children will love to do in this recipe. For example, they can measure and add ingredients, then add them to the food processor and mixing bowl. Depending on the child's age, an adult may need to be the operator! Roll up their sleeves and let them press the crust into the bottom and sides of the pan. They can make the batter, pour it in, and then decorate the top! Remember, there's no right or wrong when cooking with children. Every result is a masterpiece.

Creepy Creature Cookies



Details:

Prep time: 20 min.

Baking time: 12-14 min.

Decoration time: 30 min.

Difficulty: Easy

Yield: Makes 18 cookies

Ingredients:

1 roll (18 oz.) refrigerated cookie dough

1/2 cup cocoa powder

1/2 cup flour

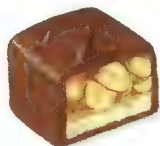
1-1/2 cups chopped SNICKERS® Bars

1 cup marshmallow fluff

Various tints vanilla frosting

1/2 cup M&M'S® Brand MINIS
Milk Chocolate Candies

Small and medium cookie cutters



Directions:

1. Knead the cookie dough with the cocoa powder and flour until smooth. This will keep the dough from spreading too much while baking.
2. Roll it out to 1/2-inch thickness. Using cookie cutters, cut out creepy shapes, cutting at least two cookies per creature. Transfer to a non-stick cookie sheet and bake in a preheated, 350 degree oven for 12-14 minutes.
3. Once baked, remove and cool completely. In the meantime, make the creatures' filling.
4. Combine SNICKERS® Bars with the marshmallow fluff. Spread the filling over one of each pair of creature cookies. Place the matching cookie on top.
5. Frost the tops of the creatures with the tinted vanilla frosting, and decorate randomly with M&M'S® Brand MINIS Milk Chocolate Candies.

Tip:

You can exchange the marshmallow fluff with peanut butter.



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Scary Ghost Cookies

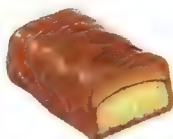


Details:

Prep time: 10 min.

Decoration time: 25 min.

Yield: Makes 16 treats



Ingredients:

- 10 large graham crackers
- 3 cups chopped TWIX® Caramel Cookie Bars
- 3/4 cup peanut butter, reduced fat
- 1/3 cup confectioner's sugar
- 1 can vanilla frosting
- 1/4 cup M&M'S® Brand MINIS Milk Chocolate Candies
- Ground chocolate cookies, optional
- Wax paper
- Sheet pan
- Wire rack
- Food processor

Directions:

1. In a food processor or blender, pulse graham crackers and TWIX® Caramel Cookie Bars until fine.
2. Remove the mixture and put it in a bowl. Add the peanut butter and confectioner's sugar to the bowl and blend together.
3. Divide the mixture into 16 pieces. Shape each piece into a ghost. If too sticky, add extra confectioner's sugar as necessary. Place the ghosts onto the wax paper and refrigerate for 30 minutes.
4. Heat the frosting in the microwave for approximately 10-20 seconds, until thinned and looking slightly like whipped cream. Place the ghosts on a wire rack over a sheet pan lined with waxed paper. Spoon the heated frosting over the ghosts until completely coated. If the unused frosting begins firming up, simply reheat it for 5 to 10 seconds. Place 2 M&M'S® Brand MINIS Milk Chocolate Candies on each ghost for the eyes.
5. Sprinkle the ground chocolate cookies on a plate like it is "dirt". Nestle the ghosts in the "dirt".



Crispy Pumpkin Treats



Details:

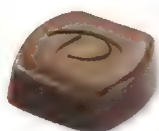
Prep time: 15 min.

Decoration time: 20 min.

Refrigeration time: 30

Difficulty: Easy

Yield: Makes 18 small pumpkins



Ingredients:

1 cup soft caramels
4 tablespoons butter
1 bag (10 oz.) marshmallows
8 cups crispy rice cereal
3-1/2 cups DOVE® Brand Milk
or Dark Chocolate
3/4 cup vanilla frosting
Orange food coloring
2 cups M&M'S® Brand
COOL GHOUL'S® Milk
Chocolate Candies Mix,
optional

10-1/2 x 15-1/2 inch
jelly roll pan
Foil or wax paper
2 or 2-1/2 inch metal
pumpkin cookie cutters
Lollipop sticks or skewers
Styrofoam
Small harvest basket

Directions:

1. Melt caramels, butter and marshmallows on stove or in microwave. Fold in cereal, stir until well coated. With lightly buttered hands, press mixture evenly into a foil lined jelly roll pan.
2. Melt DOVE® Brand Milk or Dark Chocolate and spread evenly over mixture. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
3. Using cookie cutters, cut treats out from pan.
4. Tint frosting orange and transfer to resealable plastic bag with a snipped corner. Pipe detail on pumpkins, using photo as a guide.
5. Press stick into bottom of pumpkins, pressing other end into a Styrofoam filled harvest basket. Cover Styrofoam with M&M'S® Brand COOL GHOUL'S® Milk Chocolate Candies Mix if desired.



Mummies



Details:

Prep time: 20 min.

Difficulty: Easy

Yield: Makes 10 mummies

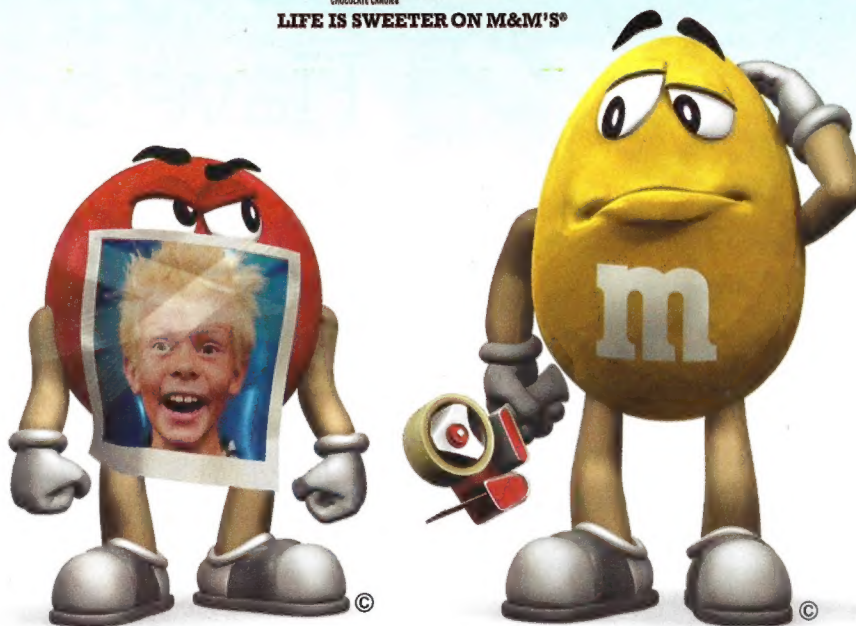
Ingredients:

1 cup DOVE® Brand Milk or Dark Chocolate
 10 pretzel rods
 1/4 cup M&M'S® Brand MINIS Milk Chocolate Candies for Halloween
 1 cup vanilla frosting
 Waxed paper
 Cookie sheet
 Resealable plastic bag
 Scissors
 32 oz. microwave safe measuring cup



Directions:

1. Place the DOVE® Brand Milk or Dark Chocolate in the measuring cup, then microwave for 1-2 minutes. In 15-second intervals, stir the chocolate until smooth.
2. Line the cookie sheet with the waxed paper. Dip half of a pretzel rod in the melted chocolate, then set it on the waxed paper. Immediately place 2 M&M'S® Brand MINIS Milk Chocolate Candies for Halloween 1-inch down from the top for the eyes. Repeat with all the rods, then refrigerate until the chocolate sets.
3. In the meantime, transfer the vanilla frosting into a plastic bag and snip the corner so that there is a 1/2-inch straight opening.
4. When the chocolate is set, gently squeeze the plastic bag with the frosting in short straight lines over the chocolate so that they resemble mummy wraps. Be sure to leave the "eyes" and some parts of the chocolate peeking out from underneath.



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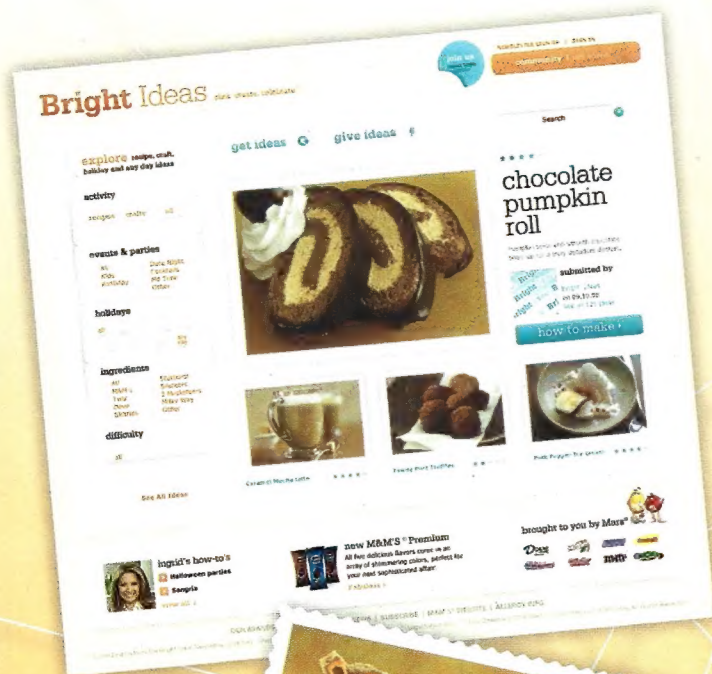
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